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(71)出願人 000155908

株式会社林原生物化学研究所

岡山県岡山市下石井1丁目2番3号

(72)発明者 岡村 春樹

大阪府茨木市中穂積2丁目12番32号

(72)発明者 谷本 忠雄

岡山県岡山市山崎312番地の88

(72)発明者 鳥越 角二

岡山県倉敷市藤田町藤田1343番地の5

(72)発明者 栗本 雅司

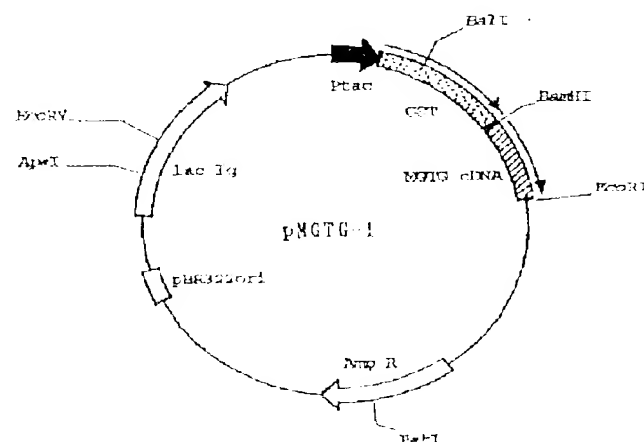
岡山県岡山市学南町2丁目7番25号

(54)【発明の名称】 インターフェロナーの産生を誘導する蛋白質

(57)【要約】

【目的】 免疫担当細胞においてI F N- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する蛋白質、その蛋白質をコードするDNA、そのDNAを含む組換えDNA及び形質転換体並びにその形質転換体を用いる蛋白質の製造方法を提供する。

【構成】 特定の理化学的性質を有する蛋白質と、その蛋白質をコードするDNAと、そのDNAと自律複製可能なベクターを含んでなる複製可能な組換えDNAと、その組換えDNAを適宜宿主に導入してなる形質転換体と、その形質転換体を培養培地で培養し、産生した蛋白質を培養物から採取してなる蛋白質の製造方法を要旨とする。





【従来の技術】ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ は、抗ウイルス作用、抗腫瘍作用、免疫調節作用を有する蛋白質として知られ、抗原やマイトコンドリアによる刺激を受けた免疫担当細胞が産生すると云われている。これら生物作用ゆえに、ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ はその発見当初より抗腫瘍剤としての実用化が鶴首され、現在では抗腫瘍を始めとする悪性腫瘍一般の治療剤として精力的に臨床試験が進められている。現在入手し得るＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ は免疫担当細胞が産生する天然型ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ と、免疫担当細胞から採取したＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ をコートするＤＮＡを大腸菌に導入してなる形質転換体が産生する組換え型ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ に大別され、上記臨床試験においては、これらのうちのいずれかが「外来ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ 」として投与されている。

【０００３】このうち、天然型ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ は、通常、培養精化した免疫担当細胞をＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ 誘導剤を含む培養培地で培養し、その培養物を精製することにより製造される。この方法では、ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ 誘導剤の種類がＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生量や精製のし易さ、さらには、製品の安全性等に多大の影響を及ぼすと云われており、通常、コンカナバリンＡ、リンズレルキチン、アメリカヤマコホウキチン、エリトトキシン、リボネチンなどのマイトコンドリアが用いられる。しかしながら、これら誘導剤、いずれも分子に多価性があり、結晶や精製方法によって品質が変動し、その品質が一定したＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ 誘導剤を産生量大に得るという問題がある。すなわち、上記誘導剤の多くは生体に投与すると顕著な副作用を示したり、物質に依っては毒性を示すものもあり、生体に直接投与してＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導するのが極めて困難であった。

【０００４】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】身から抗原に比べ、この発明の目的は、免疫担当細胞においてＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する性質の蛋白質を提供することにある。

【０００５】この発明の別の目的は、身から蛋白質をコードするＤＮＡを提供することにある。

【０００６】この発明のさらに別の目的は、身からＤＮＡと自律複製可能なベクターを含んでなる複製可能な組換えＤＮＡを提供することにある。

【０００７】この発明のさらに別の目的は、身から組換えＤＮＡを適宜宿主に導入してなる形質転換体を提供することにある。

【０００８】この発明のさらに別の目的は、組換えＤＮＡをコードする宿主蛋白質の製造方法を提供することにある。

【０００９】

【課題を解決するための手段】この発明は、上記第一の果実を、上記の理化学的性質を有する蛋白質により解決されるものである。

(１) 分子量

S.D.S.ポリアクリルアミドゲル電気泳動法又はゲル浸透法で測定すると分子量19,000、19,000、19,000

ルトンを示す。

(2) 等電点

クロマトフォーカシング法で測定すると、4.8±1.0に等電点を示す。

(3) 部分アミノ酸配列

配列表における前記番号1及び2に示す部分アミノ酸配列を有する。

(4) 生物作用

免疫担当細胞においてＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する。

10 【００１０】この発明は、上記第一の課題を、斯かる蛋白質をコートするＤＮＡにより解決するものである。

【００１１】この発明は、上記第二の課題を、斯かるＤＮＡと自律複製可能なベクターを含んでなる複製可能な組換えＤＮＡにより解決するものである。

【００１２】この発明は、上記第四の課題を、斯かるＤＮＡと自律複製可能なベクターを含んでなる複製可能な組換えＤＮＡを適宜宿主に導入してなる形質転換体により解決するものである。

20 【００１３】この発明は、上記第五の課題を、当該蛋白質を産生し得る形質転換体を培養培地で培養し、産生した蛋白質を培養物から採取してなる蛋白質の製造方法により解決するものである。

【００１４】

【作用】この発明の蛋白質は、前述したとおり、従来の蛋白質には見られなかった独特の理化学的性質を具備しており、免疫担当細胞に作用させると、ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する。

【００１５】この発明のＤＮＡは、自律複製可能な適宜ベクターに挿入して組換えＤＮＡとして、組換えＤＮＡを、宿主細胞に導入して組換え蛋白質を生じさせ、培養に始末させることのできる宿主に導入して形質転換体とする。ことにより、当該蛋白質の産生を實現する。

【００１６】この発明の複製可能な組換えＤＮＡは、宿主細胞に導入して組換え蛋白質を生じさせ、培養に始末させることのできる宿主に導入して形質転換体とする。ことにより、当該蛋白質の産生を實現する。

【００１７】この発明の形質転換体は、宿主細胞に、当該蛋白質を産生する。

40 【００１８】斯かる形質転換体をこの発明の製造方法にしたがって培養すれば、所望量の蛋白質を比較的容易に得られる。

【００１９】以下、実施例、試験例等に基づきこの発明を説明する。この発明は、免疫担当細胞において、ＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する新規な蛋白質（以下、本発明者等、腫瘍細胞由来の中間体産生誘導因子）の存在を突き詰めていたところ、マウスの肝臓中にＩＦＮ- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する従来の因子と全く新規な性質が存在することを見出した。カラバクロマトフォーカシングを中心とする種々の精製方法でこの物質を単離し、その性質・性状を調べたところ、その本質は電

白質であり、このような理化学的性質を有するものであることが判明した。

(1) 分子量

SDS-ポリアクリルアミドゲル電気泳動法又はゲル濾過法で測定すると、分子量19,000 $\pm$ 5,000ダルトンを示す。

(2) 等電点

クロマトフォーカシング法で測定すると、4.8 $\pm$ 1.0に等電点を示す。

(3) 部分アミノ酸配列

配列表における配列番号1及び2に示す部分アミノ酸配列を有する。

(4) 生物作用

免疫担当細胞においてIFN- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する。

【0020】次に、これら理化学的性質を解明するに到った一連の実験について説明する。

【0021】

【実験例1 精製蛋白質の調製】8週齢の雄CD-1マウス600匹の腹腔内にコリネ・シナリウム・ハルハム(ATCC11827)を60℃で1時間加熱して調製した死菌体を1mg/匹注射投与し、通常一般の方法で7日間飼育後、腹腔内に大腸菌由来の精製リボ核酸を1 $\mu$ g/匹注射投与した。1乃至2時間後、頸部を断頭させてマウスを屠殺し、心臓系血後、肝臓を摘出し、8倍量の5.0mM酢酸緩液(pH7.8)中、ホモゲナイザーにより攪拌して抽出した。抽出物を約8,000rpmで5分間遠心分離し、得られた上清約9.1に倍量の酢酸アンモニウムを含む5.0mM酢酸緩液(pH7.8)を添加し、ホモミキサが15%飽和になるように加え、4℃で18時間静置後、約8,000rpmで30分間遠心分離して当該蛋白質を含む上清約1.9を得た。

【0022】この上清を約1M酢酸アンモニウムを含む5.0mM酢酸緩液(pH7.8)中で平衡化させておいたフタルマシア製「スーパーゲル」(約4.6L)のカラムに負荷し、カラムを新鮮な同一緩液で洗浄後、1Mから0.2Mに下降する酢酸アンモニウムの濃度勾配で、5.0mM酢酸緩液(pH7.8)をSV1.0 $\pm$ 0.5まで通液した。酢酸アンモニウム濃度が0.8M付近のときに当該蛋白質を含む画分約4.8Lを採取し、濃縮し、2.5mM酢酸緩液(pH6.5)に対して4℃で18時間透析後、予め2.0mM酢酸緩液(pH6.5)中で平衡化させておいたフタルマシア製「DEAE-セファローズ」(約25.6mL)のカラムに負荷した。カラムを新鮮な同一緩液で洗浄後、0Mから0.2Mに上昇する塩化ナトリウムの濃度勾配で、カラムに2.0mM酢酸緩液(pH6.5)をSV1.0まで通液した。このとき、当該蛋白質が0.13M付近の塩化ナトリウム濃度で溶出した。

【0023】当該蛋白質を含む溶出液約2.60mLを採

取り、濃縮し、2.5mMピストリス緩液(pH7.1)に対して4℃で18時間透析後、予め新鮮な同一緩液中で平衡化させておいたフタルマシア製「Mono-Q」(約2.4mL)のカラムに負荷し、pH7からpH4に下降するpH勾配で、カラムに1.0%(v/v)ホリパッファー7.4(pH4.0)を通液したところ、pHが約4.8のときに当該蛋白質が溶出した。当該蛋白質を含む溶出液約2.3mLを採取し、濃縮し、予め7mM酢酸緩液(pH6.5)からなる混液(pH7.8)で平衡化させておいたフタルマシア製「スーパーゲル」(約7.8L)のカラムに負荷し、新鮮な同一緩液を流してゲル濾過クロマトグラフィーしたところ、分子量19,000ダルトン付近に当該蛋白質が溶出した。当該蛋白質を含む画分を採取し、濃縮して下記の実験例2に供した。収量は、マウス1匹当たり約0.6 $\mu$ gであった。

【0024】

【実験例2 蛋白質の理化学的性質】

【0025】

【実験例2-1 分子量】実験例1で調製した精製蛋白質の「スーパー・サイズ」(「シー・シー・シー」社、第030~035頁、1979年)に記載している方法に準じ、遠心筒の非存在下でSDS-ポリアクリルアミドゲル電気泳動したところ、分子量19,000 $\pm$ 5,000ダルトンに相当する位置に1Fに1条の帯が観察された。この結果は、マウス調製法による、67,000ダルトン(「スーパー・サイズ」)及び、45,000ダルトン(「大腸菌」)の分子量とほぼ一致した。また、この結果は、大腸菌由来の精製蛋白質(2.6,100ダルトン)及び、 $\alpha$ - $\beta$ -グロブリン(14,400ダルトン)であった。

【0026】

【実験例2-2 等電点】精製蛋白質を新鮮な同一緩液で平衡化させた後、クロマトフォーカシングしたところ、4.8 $\pm$ 1.0に等電点を示した。

【0027】

【実験例2-3 部分アミノ酸配列】実験例1で得た精製蛋白質を含む水溶液の「シー・シー・シー」社で調製した「濃縮液」3%(w/v)SDS(0.6%)、(v/v)グリセロール及びジチオトリス(0.6mM)からなる混液2.5 $\mu$ Lを加え、50℃で30分間加熱した後、15%(w/v)トリクロロ酢酸にアミドゲル上を移し、通常にしたかゝって電泳を施行した。その結果、ゲルを0.1%(w/v)「シー・シー・ブリン」(「トリノール」R250)を含む5.0%(v/v)水溶性メタノールと1.0%(v/v)酢酸水溶液の混液に浸漬して染色し、1.2%(v/v)水溶性メタノールと7%(v/v)酢酸水溶液の混液で過剰に染色し、乾燥中に18時間浸漬して洗浄後、ゲルより「シー・ブリン」

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トブルー染色された当該蛋白質を含む部分を切出し、凍結乾燥した。

【0028】次に、乾燥ゲルを「マ製」TPCKトリプシン<sup>®</sup> 2  $\mu$ g/mlを含む100mM炭酸水素ナトリウム、0.5mM塩化カルシウム及び0.02% (v/v) Tween-20水溶液からなる混液0.6mlに浸漬し、37℃で18時間インキュベートして蛋白質をトリプシン消化した。そして、消化物を遠心分離して上清を採取する一方、沈殿部を0.001% (v/v) Tween-20を含む1% (v/v) 水性トリフルオロ酢酸1mlに浸漬し、室温下で4時間振盪後、遠心分離し上清を採取した。新たに生じた沈殿を0.001%

(v/v) Tween-20を含む70% (v/v) 水性トリフルオロ酢酸、0.001% (v/v) Tween-20を含む50% (v/v) 水性トリフルオロ酢酸及び50% (v/v) 水性アセトニトリルの順序で上記と同様に処理し、得られた上清と上記で得られた上清をプールし、250  $\mu$ lまで濃縮後、遠心濾過した。

【0029】斯くして得られたペプチド断片を含む水溶液を、予め0.1% (v/v) 水性トリフルオロ酢酸で平衡化させていた電圧型高速液体クロマトグラフィー用カラム (HPLC-ODS-1201) に負荷し、カラムを0.1% (v/v) 水性トリフルオロ酢酸で洗浄後、溶出液中のペプチド濃度を吸光度計により214nm及び280nm波長下でモニタしながら、0% (v/v) から70% (v/v) に上昇する水性アセトニトリルの濃度勾配下、カラムに0.1% (v/v) トリフルオロ酢酸を0.5ml/分で流して濃度した。そして、前夜開始からの約75分後又は約55分後に溶出した画分（以下、それぞれ「ペプチド断片A」又は「ペプチド断片B」と言う）を別々に採取した。このときの溶出パターンを図1に示す。

【0030】ペーキング・エレクトロフォoresis・ブロッティング<sup>®</sup> (PAGE) を使用し、富集にしたうえでこれらのペプチド断片A及びBのアイソ電気移動率を測定したところ、それぞれ、図1表に示す1及び2画番に示す位置に帯を有していた。

【0031】

【実施例2-1 生物活用】

4 【0032】

【実施例2-1 (a) 免疫細胞培養におけるIFN- $\gamma$ 産生の誘導】8週間齢の雄H-1Tマウスから脾臓を摘出し、血清無血清のRPMI1640培地 (pH7.4) 中で洗浄し、新鮮な同一培地で洗浄後、キリ細胞液 (pH8.0) 中に浸漬して溶血させた。得られた脾細胞を10% (v/v) 牛胎児血清を補足したRPMI1640培地 (pH7.4) に細胞密度 $1 \times 10^6$ 個/mlになるように懸濁した後、和光純薬工業製細胞分離用マイクロウールカラムに負荷し、5% CO<sub>2</sub> インキュベーター中、37℃で1時間インキュベートした。その後

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カラムに10% (v/v) 牛胎児血清を補足したRPMI1640培地 (pH7.4) を通流してT細胞を採取し、新鮮な同一培地で洗浄し、上記のIFN- $\gamma$ 誘導試験に供した。

【0033】細胞密度 $1 \times 10^6$ 個/mlになるようにRPMI1640培地 (pH7.4) に浮遊させたマウスT細胞を96ウェルマイクロプレートに0.15mlずつとり、精製蛋白質を10% (v/v) 牛胎児血清を補足したRPMI1640培地 (pH7.4) で適宜希釈して0.05ml加えた後、0.5  $\mu$ g/mlのコンカナバリンAの存在下又は非存在下で5% CO<sub>2</sub> インキュベーター中、37℃で24時間培養した。その後、各ウェルからの培養上清を0.1mlずつ採取し、産生したIFN- $\gamma$ を通常の酵素免疫測定法により測定した。同時に、精製蛋白質を省略した以外は同一の系を設け、これを上記と同様に処置して対照とした。なお、IFN- $\gamma$ の標準品には、米国国立公衆衛生研究所から入手した標準マウスIFN- $\gamma$  (602-901-533) を使用し、国際単位 (IU) に換算して表示した。

【0034】その結果、対照系において有意なIFN- $\gamma$ の産生が認められなかったのに対して、精製蛋白質を加えた系では顕著なIFN- $\gamma$ の産生が認められ、0.02乃至10  $\mu$ g/mlの用量で、コンカナバリンAの非存在下でマウスT細胞に $10^6$ 個当たり約2乃至2,000 IUのIFN- $\gamma$ が産生していった。このことは、当該蛋白質に免疫刺激作用におけるIFN- $\gamma$ の産生を誘導する作用のあることを実付けている。

【0035】なお、この発明を通して当該蛋白質の1単位とは、コンカナバリンAの存在下で上記の誘導試験したときに、IFN- $\gamma$ を160 IU誘導する蛋白質の量を定義する。

【0036】

【実施例2-4 (b) キリ細胞液の培養誘導法】100  $\mu$ g/mlのカリニシン<sup>®</sup> (10<sup>-4</sup>M) のメタノール溶液を蒸気及び10% (v/v) 牛胎児血清を含むRPMI1640培地 (pH7.2) に良好好び (4℃) と同様に調整したキリ細胞液を細胞密度 $1 \times 10^6$ 個/mlになるように希釈後、組換え型ヒトIFN- $\gamma$  (0.1、0.5又は1.0  $\mu$ g/ml) を加えた後、25ml培養液をウェルに取替えた。培養液中の蛋白質を血清濃度に精製蛋白質を0.008、0.1、2.0又は10.0単位/mlを加えて、コンカナバリンA (37  $\mu$ g/ml) で72時間培養し、新鮮なRPMI1640培地 (pH7.2) で洗浄後、脾細胞を予め放明性ウロム酸ナトリウムで標識したYAC-1細胞 (ATCC-71B160) とともに遊離細胞 (誘導細胞比20:1又は40:1の割合で新鮮なRPMI1640培地 (pH7.2) に浮遊させた。細胞浮遊液を96ウェルマイクロプレートにとり、5% CO<sub>2</sub> インキュベーター中、3

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7℃で4時間培養し、培養上清中の<sup>32</sup>P-CTPによる放射能をガンマカウンタにより測定した。結果を表1に示す。

【0037】表1の結果は、この発明の蛋白質にキラー細胞による細胞増殖を有意に増強する性質があり、し

かも、その性質がインターロイキン2により顕著に増強されることを示している。

【0038】

【表1】

作用因子		細胞障害性(%)	
当該蛋白質 (単位/ml)	インターロイキン2 (u/ml)	効果細胞/標的細胞 40/1	20/1
100	0	48.6	48.0
20	0	35.5	27.5
4	0	33.0	17.7
0.8	0	22.9	14.5
0	0	0.1	0.0
100	1	55.8	55.2
20	1	51.2	46.4
4	1	40.5	26.4
0.8	1	22.1	10.3
0	1	0.4	0.0
100	5	63.6	56.1
20	5	63.2	45.1
4	5	53.2	44.6
0.8	5	38.4	23.4
0	5	1.0	0.2
100	10	67.8	56.5
20	10	67.7	59.9
4	10	62.8	51.1
0.8	10	46.2	31.7
0	10	1.0	0.5

【0039】以上のような理化学的性質を有する蛋白質は未だ知られておらず、新規物質であると判断される。そこで、本発明者が、マウス脾細胞からmRNAを単離し、これを鋳型に前記実験例2-3で明らかにした部分アミノ酸配列に基づき化学合成したプライマーの存在下でRT-PCR反応させて当該蛋白質を部分コードするDNA断片を採取し、これをプローブにして上記mRNAから別途作製したcDNAライブラリーを鋭意検索した結果、171株中からなる、配列表における配列番号4に示す151塩基対からなる、配列表における配列番号3に示す157個のアミノ酸からなる、配列表における配列番号3に示すN末端からのアミノ酸配列を有していることが判明した。なお、配列表における配列番号8において、符号「Xaa」を付して示したアミノ酸は、メチオニン又はトレオニンを意味するものとする。

【0040】配列表における配列番号8及び4に示すア

ミノ酸配列及び塩基配列を解明するに到った一連の操作を要約すると、次のようになる。

(1) マウス脾細胞からmRNAを中心とする種々の精製方法を組合せてマウス脾細胞から当該蛋白質を単離し、高度に精製した。

(2) 精製蛋白質をトリプシンで消化し、消化物から2種類のペプチド断片を単離し、そのアミノ酸配列を決定した。

(3) マウス脾細胞からmRNAを採取し、これを鋳型に上記部分アミノ酸配列に基づき化学合成したオリゴヌクレオチドのプライマーの存在下でRT-PCR反応させてDNA断片を調製する一方、それら部分アミノ酸配列に基づき別途化学合成したオリゴヌクレオチドをプローブにしてそれらDNA断片を検索し、当該蛋白質を部分コードするDNA断片を採取した。

(4) 別途、前記mRNAを鋳型にcDNAライブラリーを作製し、これに上記で調製したDNA断片をプロ





ニ、40mg/l X-Gal及び23-8mg/lイソプロピル- $\beta$ -D-チオガラクトシロシド(以下、

IP1Gと略記する。)を含むプレート培地に接種し、37℃で24時間培養してコロニーを形成させた。常法にしたがって、プレート培地にナイロン膜を装置し、約30秒間静置してコロニーを移取した後、ナイロン膜を剥離し、0.5N水酸化ナトリウム及び1.5M塩化ナトリウムを含む溶液に7分間浸漬して溶菌した後、ナイロン膜を1.5M塩化ナトリウムを含む0.5Mトリス-塩酸緩衝液(pH7.2)に3分間浸漬し、2×SSCで洗浄し、0.4N水酸化ナトリウムに20分間浸漬して固定し、5×SSCでさらに洗浄し、乾燥後、5×SSPE、5×デニハール液、0.5% (w/v) SDS及び100 $\mu$ g/ml後性サケ精子DNAを含むハイブリダイゼーション溶液に浸漬し、65℃で3時間インキュベートした。その後、常法にしたがってナイロン膜にプローブをハイブリタイズさせ、6×SSCで洗浄後、前記と同様にホーターシグナルを検出し、プローブと顕著な結合を示した胎質転換体とプレート培地が同視した。

【0048】この胎質転換体をフニドナリ、100 $\mu$ g/mlを含むプレート培地(pH7.2)に接種し、37℃で18時間培養後、培养基から菌体を採取し、滅菌のグルカリ-SDS法により低濃度DNAを採取した。このDNAを消化し、その消化液を、この用特許のDNA塩列表の(別番号4)に示す塩基配列における第85番から81番目に相当する塩基配列のDNA断片を含んでいた。

【0049】

【実験例3-3 (mRNAの調製)】実験例3-1で得た全RNAを含む溶液を0.05mlとし、これに1mM-サトリウム-EDTAと0.1% (w/v) SDSを加えて10mMトリス-塩酸緩衝液(pH7.5)を、0.5mlと調整し、容量を1mlとした。混合液に100 $\mu$ g/mlイソプロピル- $\beta$ -D-チオガラクトシロシドと100 $\mu$ g/mlイソプロピル- $\beta$ -D-チオガラクトシロシドを加え、65℃で5分間加熱して変性させた。溶液は急速に3分間冷却し、1.5M塩化ナトリウムを0.5mlを加えて、3×SSCで10分間インキュベートし、50℃、10、0.001rpmで10分間遠心分離し、上清を捨てて得られた。1×SSC状の溶液に滅菌水を0.5mlを加えて懸濁させ、65℃で5分間インキュベートしてポリリブサックが5mMトリス-塩酸緩衝液(pH7.5)に溶解し、沈殿させた。

【0050】

【実験例3-4 (cDNAライブラリーの作製)】アパ-ームとcDNAライブラリーシグナット-cDNA合成システム-ファクトを使用し、実験例3-3で調製したmRNAからcDNAライブラリーを作製した。すなわち、

1. 5mlの反応管に第一ストランドcDNA合成用溶

液4 $\mu$ l、ピロリン酸ナトリウム溶液1 $\mu$ l、ヒト胎盤リボヌクレアーゼインヒビター溶液1 $\mu$ l、デオキシタクトイオソリ-3磷酸混合液2 $\mu$ l及びポリ(dI-プライマー)溶液1 $\mu$ lをこの順序に加え、さらに、実験例3-3で得たmRNAを2 $\mu$ g加えた後、滅菌蒸留水で1.9 $\mu$ lとした。混合液に懸濁した0.4 $\mu$ lを含む溶液1 $\mu$ lを加え、42℃で10分間インキュベートして第一ストランドcDNAを含む反応液を得た。

【0051】反応物に第二ストランドcDNA合成用溶液を37.5 $\mu$ l、大腸菌由来のリリヌクレアーゼIIを0.8単位、DNAポリメラーゼIを2.3単位この順序で加え、滅菌蒸留水で100 $\mu$ lとした後、12℃で60分間、22℃で60分間インキュベートし、14 $\mu$ l DNAポリメラーゼを2単位加え、37℃でさらに10分間インキュベートして第二ストランドcDNAを含む反応物を得た。反応物に0.25M-EDTA (pH8.0)を4 $\mu$ l加えて反応を停止させた後、常法によりフニドナリ-ホーターシグナルを抽出し、DNAを沈澱させてcDNAを同視した。

【0052】このようにして得たcDNAに1.1M緩衝液を2 $\mu$ l、1.6 $\mu$ l-R1アタックター-4と5.0 $\mu$ lのホーターシグナルを加え、50単位この順序で加え、滅菌蒸留水で20 $\mu$ lとした後、16℃で16時間インキュベートしてDNA断片にホーターシグナルを連結した。反応物に0.25M-EDTAを2 $\mu$ l加えて反応を停止させ、常法により分子篩クロマトゲラフ-1によりはじかれたホーターシグナル-ポリリブサック-1-E緩衝液を10 $\mu$ lとホーターシグナル-ポリリブサック-2を0.4 $\mu$ l加え、滅菌蒸留水で、量100 $\mu$ lとした。37℃で30分間インキュベートして1.6 $\mu$ l-R1切断部位をメチル化した後、反応物をホーターシグナル-ポリリブサック-4と少量してDNAを採取した。DNAに過量のホーターシグナル-ポリリブサック-1を加えて1.5 $\mu$ lと1.1 $\mu$ l-R1アタックター-4を1.5 $\mu$ lと加え、滅菌蒸留水を全量10 $\mu$ lとした。15℃で16時間インキュベートしてサイグナルした後、適量の生体質-ホーターシグナルを用いて同視してcDNAを含むクローンを得た。

【0053】

【実験例3-5 (組換えDNAのクローニング)】アパ-ーム大腸菌にM13-14株に実験例3-1で調製したクローンを常法により感染させた後、10 $\mu$ g/mlポリリブサック-1と10 $\mu$ g/mlポリリブサック-2と10 $\mu$ g/mlポリリブサック-1と10 $\mu$ g/mlポリリブサック-2を含む滅菌培地(pH7.0)に接種し、37℃で6時間培養してクローンを形成させた。その培地にナイロン膜を装置し、約30秒間静置してクローンをナイロン膜上に移取した後、ナイロン膜を剥離し、まず、0.5M水酸化ナトリウムと1.5M塩化ナトリウムを含む水溶液に2分間、次に、1.5M塩化ナトリウムを含む0.5

Mトリス、塩酸緩衝液 (pH 7. 0) に5分間浸漬した。ナイロン膜を5×SSCで濯ぎ、風乾後、5×SSPE、5×デンハルト溶液、0. 5% (w/v) SDS及びサケ精子DNAを1. 00  $\mu$ g/ml含む混液に浸漬し、65℃で3時間インキュベートした。その後、ナイロン膜をアマニウム製DNA標識キット、レナィ・フワイムDNA標識システム、を用いて<sup>32</sup>P標識した実験例3-2で得たブローブ2としてのDNA断片の適量と5×SSPE、5×デンハルト溶液、0. 5% (w/v) SDS及びサケ精子DNAを1. 00  $\mu$ g/ml含む混液中、60℃で20時間インキュベートしてハイブリクイブさせ、以後、前記は同様にオートラジオグラフィして、ブローブ2に特異的な合を示したウエーシDNAブローブを採取した。

【0.054】常法にしたからてこのクローンを大腸菌中で増殖し、菌体から組換えDNAを抽出した。組換えDNAを制限酵素EcoRIで切断する一方、プラスミドのクロー-pUC19(Ap<sup>r</sup> C37から1)を同じ制限酵素で切断し、得られたDNA断片とプラスミド断片を混合し、によりDNAリガーゼで連結して組換えDNAとした。そして、この組換えDNAを通常の1.2%アガロース凝乳により大腸菌JM109株(Ap<sup>r</sup> C35から3)に導入し、形質転換を得た。

【 ( ; 11 5, 5. )】

[illegible]

【のこし】以上、大體をいへば、この蛋白質の性質は、  
ていどその産生を決定する蛋白は、一本を明者の長  
年にわたる研究の一成果として見出されたものであり、従  
来その蛋白質には見られない獨特の理化学的性質を見  
出し、この証明は、頭換えられた技術で応用する  
ことにより、その蛋白質を利用しようといふものであ  
る。以下、実施例等を参照しながら、この発明の蛋白質  
とその製法等につき、具体的に説明する。

【00057】この発明でいう蛋白質とは、特定の理化学的性質を具備する、天然由来の蛋白質及び組換えDNA技術により創製された蛋白質を意味する。この発明の蛋白質は、通常、一部又は全部が配列されたアミノ酸配列を有しており、その一例として、例えば、配列表に示される配列番号8に示すアミノ酸配列の、アミノ酸配列、それに相対的なアミノ酸配列が示されるアミノ酸配列番号3のアミノ酸配列に相対的なアミノ酸配列を有する変異体は、所定の生物作用を生物学的に実をすることなく、配列番号8のアミノ酸配列におけるアミノ酸の1個又は2個以上を他のアミノ酸で置換することにより得ることできる。なお、同じDNAであっても、それを導入する宿主や、そのDNAを含む細胞が宿主の宿主に使用される宿主培地の成分・組成、培養温度・pHなどに依って、宿主内発現によるDNA発現後の修飾などにより、所定の生物作用を保持しているものの、配列番号3のアミノ酸配列におけるN末端付近のアミノ酸が1個又は2個以上欠失した場合、N末端に1個又は2個以上のアミノ酸が配列に付いた変異体の存在することもある。かかる変異体も、それが高発現担当因子に対して1日1-2%の産生を誘導するから、当然、この発明の蛋白質に包含される。

[illegible][illegible]





【0074】この上清を予め150mM塩化ナトリウムを含む50mMトリス・塩酸緩衝液(pH7.5)で平衡化させておいたフエルマ：アミノグルタチオン・セファロース4Bカラムに負荷し、新鮮な同一緩衝液で洗浄後、カラムに5mM還元型グルタチオンを含む50mMトリス・塩酸緩衝液(pH8.0)を通液して蛋白質を溶出させた。次いで、蛋白質を含む画分に採集濃度が2.5mMになるように塩化カルシウムを加えるとともに、トリンセンを1,000単位加え、25℃で18時間インキュベートし、反応物を予め150mM塩化ナトリウムを含む50mMトリス・塩酸緩衝液(pH7.5)で平衡化させておいたグルタチオン・セファロース4Bカラムに通液して非吸着画分を採取した。その後、この画分を濃縮し、凍結乾燥したところ、比活性約5×10<sup>5</sup>単位/mg蛋白質の当該蛋白質を含む固状物が培養約1.1当たり約3mgの収量で得られた。

【0075】実施例2と同様にしてこの精製蛋白質の理化的性質を調べたところ、この精製蛋白質は、SDS-ポリアクリルアミドゲル電気泳動方法又はゲル濾過法により測定すると分子量11,000から、10,000である。また、クロマトフォーカシング法により測定するとpIは4.1、等電点を示した。さらに、実施例2-4の方法により試験したところ、精製蛋白質は、インターフェリンAの非存在下及び存在下で免疫担当細胞におけるIFN-γ産生をより誘発し、また、キラー細胞の細胞傷害性も顕著に増強した。これは、組換えDNA技術によっても、当該蛋白質を製造し得ることを裏付けるものである。

【0076】

【発明の効果】この発明は、免疫担当細胞においてIFN-γの産生を誘導する新規な蛋白質の発見に基づくものである。この発明の蛋白質は、通常、アミノ酸配列の

配列

His	His	Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Asp	Pro	Pro	Glu	Asn	His	Asp	Asp	His	Gln
1				5					10						15	
Ser	Asp	Leu	His	Phe	Phe	Gln	Lys									
				20			25									

【0081】配列番号：2

配列の長さ：18

配列の型：アミノ酸

配列

Gln	Pro	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Met	Thr	Asp	His	Asp	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu	Pro
1				5				10							15	
Gln																

【0082】配列番号：3

配列の長さ：157

配列の型：アミノ酸

配列

Asn	Phe	Gly	Arg	Leu	His	Cys	Thr	Thr	Ala	Val	His	Arg	Asn	His	Asn	Asp
1				5				10							15	

一部又は全部が解明された物質であり、免疫担当細胞において安定したIFN-γ誘導能を発揮する。これにより、この発明の蛋白質は、細胞培養法によりIFN-γを製造するためのIFN-γ誘導剤として、さらには、IFN-γに感受性を有するウイルス性疾患、悪性腫瘍、免疫疾患等に対する治療剤・予防剤として多種多様の用途を有することとなる。

【0077】この発明の蛋白質は強力なIFN-γ誘導能を有することから、一般に少量で所期のIFN-γ産生を誘導でき、また、毒性が極めて低いことから、多量投与しても重篤な副作用を惹起することはない。したがって、この発明の蛋白質は、使用に際して用量を厳密に管理しなくても、所期のIFN-γ産生を迅速に誘導できる利点がある。一わえて、この発明の蛋白質はキラー細胞による細胞傷害性を増強する性質が顕著なことから、インターフェリン2や腫瘍壊死因子と適宜併用することにより、殺手免疫療法による肺癌、腎臓癌、乳癌などのがん病を含むがん治療の分野における治療効果や副作用の改善に顕著な効果を発揮する。

【0078】所くも有用なこの発明の蛋白質は、これをコードするこの発明のDNAを利用することにより、所望品を容易に製造することができる。

【0079】この発明は、所くも顕著な作用効果を発揮するものであり、当界に貢献すること誠に多大な意義のある発明であつた。と云える。

【0080】

【配列1】配列番号：1

配列の長さ：25

配列の型：アミノ酸

トポロジ：直鎖状

配列の種類：ペプチド

フラグメントの種類：中間部フラグメント

トポロジ：直鎖状
配列の種類：ペプチド
40 フラグメントの種類：中間部フラグメント

23 24  
 Gln Val Leu Phe Val Asp Lys Arg Gln Pro Val Phe Glu Asp Met Thr Asp  
 20 25 30  
 Ile Asp Gln Ser Ala Ser Glu Pro Gln Thr Arg Leu Ile Ile Tyr Met Tyr  
 35 40 45 50  
 Lys Asp Ser Glu Val Arg Gly Leu Ala Val Thr Leu Ser Val Lys Asp Ser  
 55 60 65  
 Lys Xaa Ser Thr Leu Ser Cys Lys Asn Lys Ile Ile Ser Phe Glu Glu Met  
 70 75 80 85  
 Asp Pro Pro Glu Asn Ile Asp Asp Ile Gln Ser Asp Leu Ile Phe Phe Gln  
 90 95 100  
 Lys Arg Val Pro Gly His Asn Lys Met Glu Phe Glu Ser Ser Leu Tyr Glu  
 105 110 115  
 Gly His Phe Leu Ala Cys Gln Lys Glu Asp Asp Ala Phe Lys Leu Ile Leu  
 120 125 130 135  
 Lys Lys Lys Asp Glu Asn Gly Asp Lys Ser Val Met Phe Thr Leu Thr Asn  
 140 145 150  
 Leu His Gln Ser  
 155

【0083】配列番号:4

配列の型:核酸

配列の長さ:471

20

配列

AACTTTGGCC GACTTCACTG TACAACCGCA GGAATACGGA ATATAAATGA CCAAGTCTC 60  
 TTGGTTGACA AAGACAGCC TGGTTCGAG GATATGACTG ATATGATCA AAGTCCAGI 120  
 GAACCCAGA CCACTAGAT AATATACATG TACAAGACA GTGAAGTAA AGGACTGGCT 180  
 GIGACCTCT CTGGAAGGA TAGTAAAYG TCTACCTCT CCIGTAAAGAA CACATCAAT 240  
 TCCTTTGAGG AAATGGATCC ACCTGAAAT ATGATGATA TACAAGTGA TCATCATTC 300  
 TTTCAGAAAC GGTTCAGG ACACACAAG ATGGAGTTG AAICTTCACT GTATGAVGA 360  
 CACTTCTTG CTGCCAAAA GGAAGATGAT GCTTCAAAAC TCATTCTGAA AAAAAAGGAT 420  
 GAAAAAGGGG ATAAATCTG ATGTTCACCT CTCACIACT TACATCAAG T 471

【0084】配列番号:5

30 配列の特徴

配列の長さ:471

起源

配列の型:核酸

生物名:マウス

鎖の数:二本鎖

配列の特徴

トポロジー:直鎖状

配列を表わす記号:1-471 rat peptide

配列の種類:cDNA to mRNA

配列

AAC TTT GGC CGA CTT CAC TGT ACA ACC GCA GTA ATA CGG AAT ATA AAT 48  
 Asn Phe Gly Arg Leu His Cys Thr Thr Ala Val Ile Arg Asn Ile Asn  
 1 5 10 15  
 GAC CAA GTT CTC TTC GTT GAC AAA AGA CAG CCT GTG TTC GAG GAT ATG 96  
 Asp Gln Val Leu Phe Val Asp Lys Arg Gln Pro Val Phe Glu Asp Met  
 20 25 30  
 ACT GAT ATT GAT CAA AGT GCC AGT GAA CCC CAG ACC AGA CAG ATA ATA 144  
 Thr Asp Ile Asp Gln Ser Ala Ser Glu Pro Gln Thr Arg Leu Ile Ile  
 35 40 45  
 TAC ATG TAC AAA GAC AGT GAA GTA AGA GGA CTG GCT GTG ACC CTC TCT 192  
 Tyr Met Tyr Lys Asp Ser Gln Val Arg Gly Leu Ala Val Thr Leu Ser  
 50 55 60  
 GTG AAG GAT AGT AAA AYG TCT ACC CTC TCC TGT AAG AAC AAG ATC ATT 240  
 Val Lys Asp Ser Lys Xaa Ser Thr Leu Ser Cys Lys Asn Lys Ile Ile

25	70	75	80	26
65				
TCC TTT GAG GAA ATG GAT CCA CCT GAA AAT ATT GAT GAT ATA CAA AGT				288
Ser Phe Glu Glu Met Asp Pro Pro Glu Asn Ile Asp Asp Ile Gln Ser				
85	90	95		
GAT CTC ATA TTC TTT CAG AAA CGT GTT CCA GGA CAC AAC AAG ATG GAG				336
Asp Leu Ile Phe Phe Gln Lys Arg Val Pro Gly His Asn Lys Met Glu				
100	105	110		
TTT GAA TCT TCA CTG TAT GAA GGA CAC TTT CTT GCT TGC CAA AAG GAA				384
Phe Glu Ser Ser Leu Tyr Glu Gly His Phe Leu Ala Cys Gln Lys Glu				
115	120	125		
GAT GAT GCT TTC AAA CTC ATT CTG AAA AAA AAG GAT GAA AAT GGG GAT				432
Asp Asp Ala Phe Lys Leu Ile Leu Lys Lys Lys Asp Glu Asn Gly Asp				
130	135	140		
AAA TCT GTA ATG TTC ACT CTC ACT AAC TTA CAT CAA AGT				471
Lys Ser Val Met Phe Thr Leu Thr Asn Leu His Gln Ser				
145	150	155		

## 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】この発明の蛋白質をトリプシン消化して得られるペプチド断片の高速液体クロマトグラフィーにおける溶出パターンを示す図である。

【図2】この発明による組換えDNAであるpMGTG 1の構造を示す図である

## 【符号の説明】

MGTG 1 cDNA この発明の蛋白質をコー

ドするcDNA

P t a c

t a c プロモータ

G S T

グルタチオンSトランス

20 フェラーゼ遺伝子

Amp R

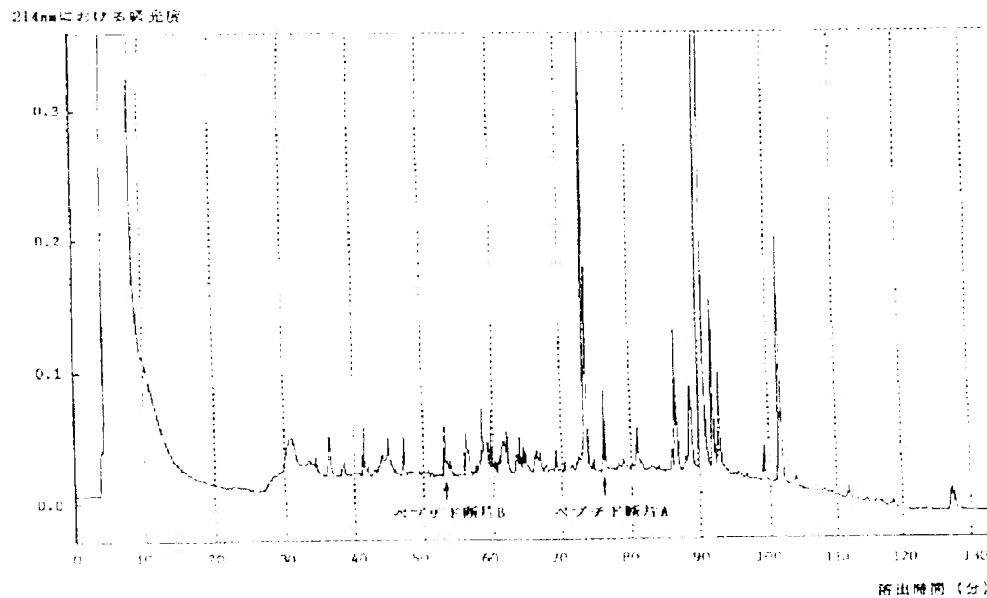
アンピシリン耐性遺伝子

o r i

大腸菌における複製開始

点

【図1】









る cDNA  
 P t a c                    t a c プロモータ  
 G S T                    ゲルタチオン S トランスフェ  
 ラーゼ遺伝子  
 A m p    R                アンピシリン耐性遺伝子  
 p B R 3 2 2 o r i        大腸菌における複製開始点

【手続補正 5】

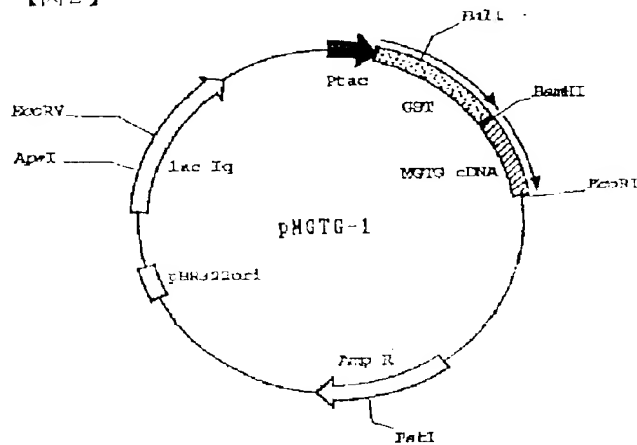
【補正対象書類名】図面

【補正対象項目名】図 2

【補正方法】変更

【補正内容】

【図 2】



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技術表示箇所

A61K 37/02

ABH

AED

9281-4B

C12N 15/00

A

[Document name]            Specification

[Title of the Invention]    Interferon- $\gamma$     production    inducing  
protein

[Claims] 1.    A protein having the following physicochemical  
properties:

- (1)    Molecular weight  
         19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and  
         sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel  
         electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);
- (2)    Isoelectric point (pI)  
         4.8 $\pm$ 1.0 on chromatofocusing;
- (3)    Partial amino acid sequence  
         Possessing partial amino acid sequences in  
         SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2; and
- (4)    Biological activity  
         Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by  
         immunocompetent cells.

2.    The protein as claimed in claim 1, which has the  
amino acid sequence containing the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:3  
(where the symbol "Xaa" means "methionine" or "threonine") or a  
homologous amino acid sequence to the amino acid sequence.

3.    A DNA encoding the protein as claimed in claim 1  
or 2.

4.    The DNA as claimed in claim 3, which contains the  
base sequence containing the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:4, a  
homologous base sequence to the base sequence, or a complementary  
base sequence to these base sequences.

5.    The DNA as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein one or  
more bases in SEQ ID NO:4 are replaced with other bases by means

of the degeneracy of genetic code without alternating the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:3.

6. The DNA as claimed in claim 3, 4 or 5, which is derived from mouse liver.

7. A replicable recombinant DNA, which contains a self-replicable vector and a DNA encoding the protein of claim 1 or 2.

8. The replicable recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 7, which contains the base sequence containing the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:4, a homologous base sequence to the base sequence, or a complementary base sequence to these base sequences.

9. The replicable recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein one or more bases in SEQ ID NO:4 are replaced with other bases by means of the degeneracy of genetic code without alternating the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

10. The replicable recombinant DNA as claimed in claim 7, 8 or 9, wherein said vector is pGEX-2T.

11. A transformant obtainable by introducing into an appropriate host a replicable recombinant DNA which contains a self-replicable vector and a DNA encoding the protein of claim 1 or 2.

12. The transformant as claimed in claim 11, which contains the base sequence containing the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:4, a homologous base sequence to the base sequence, or a complementary base sequence to these base sequences.

13. The transformant as claimed in claim 11 or 12, wherein one or more bases in SEQ ID NO:4 are replaced with other bases by means of the degeneracy of genetic code without alternating the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

14. The transformant as claimed in claim 11, 12 or 13,

wherein said vector is pGEX-2T.

15. The transformant as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein said host is a microorganism of the species *Escherichia coli*.

16. A process for preparing a protein, which comprises (a) culturing a transformant capable of forming the protein of claim 1 or 2 in a nutrient culture medium, and (b) collecting the formed protein from the resultant culture.

17. The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein said transformant is obtainable by introducing into an appropriate host a replicable recombinant DNA which contains a self-replicable vector and a DNA encoding the protein of claim 1 or 2.

18. The process as claimed in claim 16 and 17, wherein said DNA contains the base sequence containing the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:4, a homologous base sequence to the base sequence, or a complementary base sequence to these base sequences.

19. The process as claimed in claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein one or more bases in SEQ ID NO:4 are replaced with other bases by means of the degeneracy of genetic code without alternating the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:3.

20. The process as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 19, wherein said vector is pGEX-2T.

21. The process as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 20, wherein said host is a microorganism of the species *Escherichia coli*.

22. The process as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 21, wherein the protein formed in the step (a) is purified by one or more purification methods selected from the group consisting of concentration, salting out, dialysis, separatory sedimentation, gel filtration chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography,

hydrophobic chromatography, affinity chromatography, chromatofocusing, gel electrophoresis, and isoelectric point electrophoresis.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a novel protein which induces the interferon- $\gamma$  (hereinafter abbreviated as "IFN- $\gamma$ ") production by immunocompetent cells.

[Prior Art]

It is said that IFN- $\gamma$  is a protein which has antiviral-, antioncotic- and immunoregulatory-activities and which is produced by immunocompetent cells stimulated with antigens or mitogens. Because of these biological activities, IFN- $\gamma$  has been expected for use as an antitumor agent from the beginning of the finding, and studied energetically for clinical trials as a therapeutic agent for malignant tumors in general including brain tumors. IFN- $\gamma$  preparations now commercially available are roughly classified into 2 groups, i.e. natural IFN- $\gamma$ s produced by immunocompetent cells and recombinant IFN- $\gamma$ s produced by transformants prepared by introducing DNAs which encode the natural IFN- $\gamma$ s into microorganisms of the species *Escherichia coli*. In the above clinical trials, either of these IFN- $\gamma$ s is administered to patients as an "exogenous IFN- $\gamma$ ".

Among these IFN- $\gamma$ s, the natural IFN- $\gamma$  is usually produced by culturing established immunocompetent cells in nutrient culture media supplemented with IFN- $\gamma$  inducers to form IFN- $\gamma$ , and purifying the IFN- $\gamma$ . It is known that the type of IFN- $\gamma$  inducers greatly influence on the production yield and the facility of IFN- $\gamma$  purification, as well as the safeness of the final products. Generally, mitogens such as concanavalin A (Con

A), *Lens culinaris*, *Phytolecta americana*, endotoxin and lipopolysaccharide are used. These mitogens, however, have problems of their molecular and quality varying dependently on their origins and purification methods, as well as the difficulty of obtaining a desired amount of preparations with a constant IFN- $\gamma$  inducibility. In addition, most of these mitogens induce unfavorable side effects when administered to living bodies, and some of them even cause toxicity, so that it is substantially difficult to induce the IFN- $\gamma$  production by the direct administrations to living bodies.

[Object of the Invention]

In view of the foregoing, the object of the present invention is to provide a novel protein which induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a DNA encoding the protein.

It is further object of the present invention to provide a replicable recombinant DNA which contains the DNA and a self-replicable vector.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a transformant obtainable by introducing the recombinant DNA into an appropriate host.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a process for preparing the protein by the application of the recombinant DNA technology.

[Means to Attain the Object]

The first object of the present invention is attained by a protein having the following physicochemical properties:

(1) Molecular weight

19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and

sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8±1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Partial amino acid sequence

Possessing partial amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2; and

(4) Biological activity

Inducing the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells.

The second object of the present invention is attained by a DNA which encodes the protein.

The third object of the present invention is attained by a replicable recombinant DNA which contains the DNA and a self-replicable vector.

The fourth object of the present invention is attained by a transformant obtainable by introducing the replicable recombinant DNA into an appropriate host.

The fifth object of the present invention is attained by a process for preparing the protein comprising culturing the transformant in a nutrient culture medium, and collecting the formed protein from the resultant culture.

[Function]

As is described above, the protein according to the present invention has the specific physicochemical properties, and induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production when acts on immunocompetent cells.

The DNA according to the present invention expresses the production of the present protein by introducing it into an appropriate self-replicable vector to form a recombinant DNA, and introducing the recombinant DNA into a host capable of proliferat-



ing without difficulty but inherently incapable of producing the present protein.

The replicable recombinant DNA according to the present invention expresses the production of the present protein by introducing it into a host capable of proliferating without difficulty but inherently incapable of producing the present protein.

The transformant produces the protein when cultured.

When the transformant is cultured by the process according to the present invention, the present protein is formed in a desired amount with a relative easiness.

Explaining now the present invention with reference to the following experiments and examples, the present invention is based on the finding of a novel protein which induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells. During the study on cytokines produced from mammalian cells, the present inventors found the existence of a novel substance which induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production in mouse liver. They isolated the substance by the combination use of purification methods comprising column chromatography mainly, studied the property and feature and revealing that the reality is a protein having the following physicochemical properties:

(1) Molecular weight

19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8 $\pm$ 1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Partial amino acid sequence

Possessing partial amino acid sequences in

(4) Biological activity

Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells.

The experiments conducted to reveal the physicochemical properties are explained in the below:

Experiment 1

Preparation of purified protein

To 600 8-week-old female CD-1 mice was intraperitoneally injected one mg/mouse of dead *Corynebacterium parvum* (ATCC 11827) which had been obtained by preheating at 60°C for one hour, and the mice were fed in usual manner for 7 days and intravenously injected with one  $\mu$ g/mouse of a purified lipopolysaccharide derived from *Escherichia coli*. On 1-2 hours after the intravenous injection, the mice were sacrificed by dislocating their cervical vertebrae to collect their blood from hearts, followed by removing their livers, disrupting them by a homogenizer in 8-fold volumes of 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.3), and extracting the resultant. The resultant extract was centrifuged at about 8,000 rpm for 20 min, and an about 9 L of the resultant supernatant was admixed with a saturated ammonium sulfate in 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.3) to give a saturation degree of 45 w/v %. The resultant solution was allowed to stand at 4°C for 18 hours and centrifuged at about 8,000 rpm for 30 min to obtain a 19 L supernatant containing the present protein.

The supernatant was fed to a column packed with about 4.6 L of "PHENYL SEPHAROSE", a product of Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala Sweden, which had been equilibrated with 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.3) containing one M ammonium sulfate, and the column was washed with a fresh preparation of the same buffer, and fed at an

sv (space velocity) 0.87 with 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.3) having a linear gradient of ammonium sulfate ranging from 1 M to 0.2 M. Fractions containing the present protein eluted at 0.8 M ammonium sulfate were collected and pooled into an about 4.8 L solution which was then concentrated with a membrane filter, dialyzed against 20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.5) at 4°C for 18 hours, and fed to a column packed with about 250 ml of "DEAE-SEPHAROSE", a product of Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden. The column was washed with a fresh preparation of the same buffer and fed at an SV 0.13 with 20 mM phosphate buffer (pH 6.5) with a linear gradient of sodium chloride ranging from 0 M to 0.2 M to elute the present protein at a concentration of about 0.13 M sodium chloride.

Fractions containing the present protein were collected, pooled (about 260 ml), concentrated and dialyzed against 25 mM Bis-Tris buffer (pH 7.1) at 4°C for 18 hours. The dialyzed solution was applied to a column packed with about 24 ml of "MONO-P", a product of Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden, and eluted with 10 v/v % polybuffer 74 (pH 4.0) while decreasing the pH from 7 to 4 to obtain an about 23 ml eluate containing the present protein. The eluate was concentrated, fed to a column packed with "SUPER-DEX 75", a product of Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden, which had been equilibrated with a solution containing 7 mM disodium hydrogen phosphate, 3 mM sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and 139 mM sodium chloride, and eluted with a fresh preparation of the same solution on gel filtration chromatography to obtain fractions containing the present protein, eluted at fractions corresponding to about 19,000 daltons. The fractions were pooled and concentrated for use in Experiment 2. The yield of the present protein was about 0.6 µg/mouse.

## Experiment 2

Physicochemical property of protein

### Experiment 2-1

#### Molecular weight

In accordance with the method reported by U. K. Laemmli in *Nature*, Vol.227, pp.680-685 (1970), the purified protein prepared by the method in Experiment 1 was electrophoresed in a sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS) polyacrylamide gel free of reducing agent to mainly show a single protein band with an IFN- $\gamma$  inducing activity at a position corresponding to about  $19,000 \pm 5,000$  daltons. The marker proteins used in this experiment were calf serum albumin (MW=67,000 daltons), ovalbumin (MW=45,000 daltons), soy bean trypsin inhibitor (MW=20,100 daltons), and  $\alpha$ -lactalbumin (MW=14,400 daltons).

### Experiment 2-2

#### Isoelectric point

The purified protein in Experiment 1 was chromatofocused to give an isoelectric point of about  $4.8 \pm 1.0$ .

### Experiment 2-3

#### Partial amino acid sequence

A portion of an aqueous solution containing the purified protein in Experiment 1 was concentrated up to a volume of about 50  $\mu$ l which was then admixed with 25  $\mu$ l of a solution containing 3 w/v % SDS, 60 v/v % glycerol, and 60 mg/ml dithiothreitol. The resultant mixture was incubated at  $50^\circ\text{C}$  for 30 min, positioned on 15 w/v % polyacrylamide gel, and electrophoresed in usual manner. The resultant gel was stained by soaking the gel in a mixture solution of 10 v/v % aqueous acetic acid solution and 50 v/v % aqueous methanol solution containing 0.1 w/v % coomassie brilliant blue R 250, destained by repeatedly washing the gel with a mixture

solution of 12 v/v % aqueous methanol solution and 7 v/v % aqueous acetic acid solution, and washed by soaking it in distilled water for 18 hours. A portion, which was stained with the coomassie brilliant blue and contained the present protein, was cut out of the gel, and lyophilized.

The lyophilized gel was soaked in 0.6 ml aqueous solution consisting of 100 mM sodium hydrogen carbonate containing 2 µg/ml "TPCK TRYPSIN", 0.5 mM calcium chloride, and 0.02 v/v % aqueous Tween 20 solution, followed by the incubation at 37°C for 18 hours to trypsinize the protein. The resultant was centrifuged to obtain a supernatant, while the resultant precipitate was soaked in one ml of one v/v % aqueous trifluoroacetate containing 0.001 v/v % Tween 20, shook for 4 hours at ambient temperature, and centrifuged to obtain a supernatant. The newly formed precipitate was successively treated similarly as above with 70 v/v aqueous trifluoroacetate containing 0.001 v/v Tween 20 and with 50 v/v % aqueous acetonitrile to obtain a supernatant. The resultant supernatant and the supernatant already obtained in the above were pooled and concentrated up to 250 µl, and the concentrate was centrifugally filtered.

The resultant aqueous solution containing peptide fragments was fed to "HPLC ODS-120T", a column for HPLC commercialized by Tosoh Corporation, Tokyo, Japan, which had been previously equilibrated with 0.1 v/v aqueous trifluoroacetate, and the column was washed with 0.1 v/v % aqueous trifluoro acetate, and fed with 0.1 v/v % trifluoro acetate at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min while the concentration of aqueous acetonitrile was increasing from 0 v/v % to 70 v/v % and the concentration of peptide in the eluate was monitoring by a spectrophotometer at wave lengths of 214 nm and 280 nm. Fractions eluted about 75 min

and about 55 min after the initiation of the elution were respectively collected (hereinafter named "peptide fragment A" and "peptide fragment B"). The elution pattern was in FIG. 1.

The peptide fragments A and B were analyzed on "MODEL 473 A", a protein sequencer commercialized by Perkin-Elmer Corp., Instrument Div., Norwalk, USA, and revealing that they have the amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2.

#### Experiment 2-4

##### Biological activity

##### Experiment 2-4(a)

##### Induction of the IFN- $\gamma$ production by immunocompetent cell

BDF1 Female mouse spleen, 8-week-old, was extracted and dispersed in serum-free RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.4), and the cells were washed with a fresh preparation of the same medium, and soaked in Gei buffer (pH 8.0) to hemolyze. The resultant spleen cells were suspended in RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.4) supplemented with 10 v/v % calf serum to give a cell density of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/ml, fed to a cell-separatory nylon wool column commercialized by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, and incubated in an incubator at 37°C for an hour under 5 v/v % CO<sub>2</sub> conditions. Thereafter, T-cells were collected from the column by feeding to the column with RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.4) supplemented with 10 v/v % calf serum, and washed with a fresh preparation of the same buffer. The resultant cells were used in the following experiment for IFN- $\gamma$  induction.

0.15 ml aliquots of a mouse T-cell suspension in RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.4) with a cell density of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/ml were injected into 96-well microplates, and to each well was added a present purified protein, which had been diluted with 0.05 ml RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.4) supplemented with 10 v/v % calf serum

albumin. The cells in the microplates were incubated in the presence or in the absence of 0.5 µg/ml concanavalin A in an incubator at 37°C for 24 hours under 5 v/v % CO<sub>2</sub> conditions. From each well 0.1 ml of the culture supernatant was collected and assayed for IFN-γ production level by conventional enzyme immunoassay (EIA). As a control, a sample free of the present purified protein was provided and treated similarly as above. The standard mouse IFN-γ preparation Gg02-901-533, obtained from The National Institutes of Health, USA, was used as an IFN-γ standard in this experiment, and the activity was expressed in terms of international units (IU).

As a result, no significant IFN-γ production was found with the control sample but found with the test sample: The present protein induced about 2-2,000 IU IFN-γ and about 2-200 IU IFN-γ from  $1 \times 10^6$  mouse T-cells when the T-cells were respectively incubated with and without 0.02-10 µg/ml of concanavalin A. The results confirm that the present protein has an activity of inducing the IFN-γ induction by immunocompetent cells.

Throughout the present specification, one unit activity of the present protein is defined as an amount of which induces 160 IU IFN-γ production when tested in the presence of concanavalin A.

#### Experiment 2-4(b)

##### Augmentation of cytotoxicity of killer cell

Similarly as in Experiment 2-4(a) mouse spleen cells were suspended in RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.2) containing 100 µg/ml kanamycin,  $5 \times 10^{-5}$  M 2-mercaptoethanol, and 10 v/v % calf serum to give a cell density of  $1 \times 10^7$  cells/ml. The cell suspension was mixed with 0, 1, 5 or 10 units/ml of a recombinant human interleukin 2, placed in a 25-ml culture flask, admixed with 0,

0.8, 4, 20 or 100 units/ml of the purified protein, and incubated in an incubator at 37°C for 72 hours under 5 v/v % CO<sub>2</sub> conditions. Thereafter, the resultant cells were washed with a fresh preparation of the same RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.2), and suspended together with YAC-1 cells (ATCC TIB160), which were previously labeled with radioactive sodium chromate, to give a cell ratio of 20/1 or 40/1 (effective cells/target cells) in a fresh preparation of the same RPMI 1640 medium (pH 7.2). The cell suspension was poured in 96-well microplates and incubated in an incubator at 37°C for 4 hours under 5 v/v % CO<sub>2</sub> conditions, followed by determining the radioactivity of <sup>51</sup>Cr in the resultant supernatant by a γ-ray counter. The results were in Table 1.

The results in Table 1 show that the present protein has an activity of inducing the cytotoxicity of killer cells, and the activity is augmented by interleukin 2.

Table 1

Factor		Cytotoxicity (%)	
The present protein (unit/ml)	Interleukin 2 (unit/ml)	Ratio (Effective cells/Target cells)	
		40/1	20/1
100	0	48.6	46.0
20	0	35.5	27.5
4	0	33.0	17.7
0.8	0	22.9	14.5
0	0	0.1	0.0
100	1	55.8	55.2
20	1	54.2	46.4
4	1	40.5	26.4



0.8	1	22.1	10.3
0	1	0.4	0.0
100	5	63.6	59.1
20	5	62.2	49.1
4	5	56.2	44.6
0.8	5	38.4	23.4
0	5	1.0	0.2
100	10	67.8	56.5
20	10	67.7	59.9
4	10	62.8	54.1
0.8	10	46.2	31.7
0	10	1.0	0.5

No protein having the above identified physicochemical properties has been known, and this confirms that it is a novel protein. The present inventors isolated mRNA from mouse liver cells, collected a DNA fragment which partially encodes the present protein by the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in the presence of a primer which was chemically synthesized by using the mRNA as a template based on the partial amino acid sequence revealed in Experiment 2-3, and energetically studied a cDNA library, prepared from the mRNA by using the DNA fragment as a probe, to obtain a DNA fragment in SEQ ID NO:4 which contains the 5'-terminus and consists of 471 base pairs. The decoding of the base sequence revealed that the present protein contains an amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:3 which consists of 157 amino acids and contains the N-terminal. In SEQ ID NO:3 the symbol "Xaa" as an amino acid means "Met (methionine)" or "Thr (threonine)".

The sequential techniques used to reveal the amino acid sequence and base sequence in SEQ ID NOs:3 and 4 are summarized in the below:

- (1) The present protein is isolated from mouse liver cells and highly purified by combining conventional purification methods comprising chromatography as a main technique;
- (2) The resultant purified protein was digested with trypsin, and 2 polypeptide fragments were isolated from the resultant mixture and determined for amino acid sequence;
- (3) From mouse liver cells, mRNA was collected, and a DNA fragment which partially encodes the present protein was prepared by the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) in the presence of a primer which was chemically synthesized by using the mRNA as a template based on the partial amino acid sequences revealed in the above. The RNA fragments were screened by using an oligonucleotide as a probe which had been chemically synthesized based on these partial amino acid sequences, followed by collecting a DNA fragment which partially encodes the present protein;
- (4) A cDNA library was prepared with the mRNA as a template and hybridized with the DNA fragment as a probe, followed by collecting a transformant which strongly hybridized with the DNA fragment; and
- (5) A cDNA was isolated from the transformant, and the

base sequence was determined and decoded. The comparison of the decoded amino acid sequence and the partial amino acid sequence revealed that the base sequence encodes the present protein.

The following Experiment 3 is to explain the above techniques (3) to (5), and the techniques in themselves used therein are commonly known in the art, for example, those disclosed by J. Sambrook et al. in "*Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*", 2nd edition (1989), published by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, New York, USA, and by Masami MURAMATSU in "*Rabo-Manual for Genetic Technology*" (1988), published by Maruzen Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan.

### Experiment 3

#### Base sequence of DNA and amino acid sequence of protein

##### Experiment 3-1

##### Preparation of whole RNA

Three g of wet mouse liver cells, similarly prepared by the method in Experiment 1, was weighed, soaked in 20 ml of a mixture solution containing 6 M guanidine isothiocyanate, 10 mM sodium citrate, and 0.5 w/v SDS, and disrupted with a homogenizer. 35-ml centrifugation tubes were injected with 25 ml of 0.1 M EDTA (pH 7.5) containing 5.7 M cesium chloride, and 10 ml of the homogenized cells were overlaid on the upper part of the solutions in the tubes, followed by centrifuging the tubes at 25,000 rpm for 20 hours to collect RNA fractions. The fractions were pooled, distributed into 15-ml centrifugation tubes, and mixed with equal volumes of a mixture solution of chloroform and isobutanol (= 4:1 by volume). The tubes were vibrated for 5 min and centrifuged at 4°C and at 10,000 rpm for 10 min, and the formed water layers were

collected, pooled, mixed with 2.5-fold volumes of ethanol, and allowed to stand at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 hours to precipitate the whole RNAs. The precipitate was collected, pooled, washed with 75 v/v % aqueous ethanol solution, and dissolved in 0.5 ml of sterilized distilled-water for use in the following experiment. The yield of the RNAs was about 4 mg on a dry solid basis (d.s.b.).

### Experiment 3-2

#### Preparation of DNA fragments encoding partially the present protein

One  $\mu\text{g}$  of the whole RNAs in Experiment 3-1 was mixed with 4  $\mu\text{l}$  of 25 mM magnesium chloride, 2  $\mu\text{l}$  of a solution of 10xPCR buffer consisting of 100 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.3) and 500 mM potassium chloride, 8  $\mu\text{l}$  of one mM dNTP mix, one  $\mu\text{l}$  of a solution containing one unit/ $\mu\text{l}$  RNase inhibitor, one  $\mu\text{l}$  of a solution containing 2.5 units/ $\mu\text{l}$  reverse transcriptase, and one  $\mu\text{l}$  of 2.5  $\mu\text{M}$  random hexamer, and further mixed with sterilized distilled-water to give a total volume of 20  $\mu\text{l}$ . The mixture solution was placed in 0.5 ml reaction tubes, and, in usual manner, successively incubated at  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 10 min, at  $42^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min, at  $99^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min, and at  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min to effect the reverse transcriptase reaction, followed by recovering an aqueous solution containing the first strand cDNA.

To 20  $\mu\text{l}$  of the aqueous solution were added 4  $\mu\text{l}$  of 25 mM magnesium chloride, 8  $\mu\text{l}$  of 10xPCR buffer, 0.5  $\mu\text{l}$  of a solution containing 2.5 units/ $\mu\text{l}$  of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase commercialized by Perkin-Elmer Corp., Instrument Div., Norwalk, USA, and one pmole of primer 1 or 2 as a sense primer or an anti-sense primer. The mixture solution was volumed up to 100  $\mu\text{l}$  with sterilized distilled-water, and, in usual manner, successively incubated at  $94^{\circ}\text{C}$  for one min, at  $45^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2 min, and at  $72^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3 min in a

cyclic manner for 40 cycles to amplify a DNA fragment, which partially encodes the present protein, by using the first strand cDNA as a template. The primers 1 and 2 are oligonucleotides, which were chemically synthesized based on the amino acid sequences of Pro-Glu-Asn-Ile-Asp-Asp-Ile and Phe-Glu-Asp-Met-Thr-Asp-Ile in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2, have base sequences of 5'-ATRTCRTCDATRTTTYTCNGG-3' and 5'-TTYGARGAYATGACNGAYA T-3', respectively.

A portion of the resultant PCR product was fractionated on electrophoresis in 2 w/v % agarose gel, transferred onto a nylon film, fixed with 0.4 N sodium hydroxide, washed with 2xSSC, air-dried, soaked in a prehybridization solution containing 5xSSPE, 5xDenhard's solution, 0.5 w/v % SDS and 100 µg/ml of denatured salmon sperm DNA, and incubated at 65°C for 3 hours. An oligonucleotide as a probe 1 having a base sequence of 5'-TTYGARGARATGGAYCC-3' was synthesized based on the amino acid sequence of Phe-Glu-Glu-Met-Asp-Pro in SEQ ID NO:1, and labeled with [ $\gamma$ -<sup>32</sup>P]ATP and T4 polynucleotide kinase. The nylon film was soaked in a solution containing one pmole of the probe 1, 5xSSPE, 5xDenhardt's solution, 0.5 w/v % SDS, and 100 µg/ml of a denatured salmon sperm DNA, and incubated at 45°C for 24 hours to effect hybridization. The resultant nylon film was washed with 6xSSC and autoradiographed in usual manner and revealing that the PCR product contained the objective DNA fragment.

The remaining PCR product was mixed with "pT7 BLUE T", a plasmid vector commercialized by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, an adequate amount of T4 ligase, and further mixed with 100 mM ATP up to give a concentration of one mM, followed by the incubation at 16°C for 18 hours to insert the DNA fragment into the plasmid vector. The recombinant DNA thus obtained was

introduced into *Escherichia coli* Nova Blue strain, a microorganism of the species *Escherichia coli* commercialized by Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden, to obtain a transformant which was then inoculated into a medium plate containing 10 g/l bactotryptone, 2.5 g/l sodium chloride, 15g/l bacto-agar, 100 mg/l ampicillin, 40 mg/l X-Gal and 23.8 mg/l isopropyl- $\beta$ -D-thiogalacto-pyranoside (hereinafter abbreviated as "IPTG"), and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours to form colonies. A nylon film was in usual manner positioned on a medium plate and allowed to stand for about 20 seconds to attach the colonies thereunto. The nylon film was then detached from the medium plate and soaked for 7 min in a solution containing 0.5 N sodium hydroxide and 1.5 M sodium chloride to effect cell lysis. Thereafter, the nylon film was soaked for 3 min in 1.5 M sodium chloride in 0.5 M Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.2), washed with 2xSSC, soaked in 0.4 N sodium hydroxide for 20 min to fix the DNA, washed with 5xSSC, air-dried, soaked in a prehybridization solution containing 5xSSPE, 5xDenhardt's solution, 0.5 w/v % SDS, and 100  $\mu$ g/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA, and incubated at 65°C for 3 hours. The colonies on the nylon film were in usual manner hybridized with the probe 1, washed with 6xSSC, and autoradiographed similarly as above, followed by selecting from the medium plate transformants which strongly hybridized with the probe 1.

The transformants were inoculated in L-broth (pH 7.2) containing 100  $\mu$ g/ml ampicillin and incubated at 37°C for 18 hours, followed by collecting cells from the culture and collecting recombinant DNA by conventional SDS-alkali method. The analysis of the dideoxy method revealed that the recombinant DNA contained a DNA fragment consisting of base sequences which correspond to those at positions from 85 to 281 in SEQ ID NO:4.

### Experiment 3-3

#### Preparation of mRNA

0.05 ml of an aqueous solution containing the whole RNAs in Experiment 3-1 was placed in a test tube, admixed with 0.5 ml of 10 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) containing one mM EDTA and 0.1 w/v % SDS, and volumed up to one ml with sterilized distilled-water. To the mixture was added one ml "OLIGOTEX-dT30 SUPER", an oligo-d(T)<sub>30</sub> latex commercialized by Nippon Roche K.K., Tokyo, Japan, followed by the incubation at 65°C for 5 min to denature the RNAs and the cooling for 3 min in an ice-chilled bath. The resultant mixture was admixed with 0.2 ml of 5 M sodium chloride, incubated at 37°C for 10 min, and centrifuged at 10,000 rpm at 25°C for 10 min. The precipitate in the form of a pellet was suspended in 0.5 ml sterilized distilled-water, and incubated at 65°C for 5 min to extract mRNA from the oligo-d(T)<sub>30</sub> latex. The yield of the mRNA was about 5 µg.

### Experiment 3-4

#### Preparation of cDNA library

cDNA Library was prepared from the mRNA in Experiment 3-3 by using "cDNA SYNTHESIZING SYSTEM PLUS", a cDNA cloning kit commercialized by Amersham Corp., Div., Amersham International, Arlington Heights, USA. The procedures were as follows: To 1.5-ml reaction tube were successively added 4 µl of a solution for synthesizing the first strand cDNA, one µl sodium pyrophosphate solution, one µl of a solution of human placenta ribonuclease inhibitor, 2 µl deoxynucleotide triphosphate mix, and one µl oligo-dT primer. The resultant mixture was mixed with 2 µl of mRNA in Experiment 3-3, volumed up to 19 µl with sterilized distilled-water, mixed with one µl of a solution containing 20 units of reverse transcriptase, and incubated at 42°C for 40 min

to obtain a reaction mixture containing the first strand cDNA.

The mixture thus obtained was mixed with 37.5  $\mu$ l of a solution for synthesizing the second strand cDNA, 0.8 units of ribonuclease H derived from *Escherichia coli*, and 23 units of DNA polymerase, and volumed up to 100  $\mu$ l with sterilized distilled-water. The resultant mixture was successively incubated at 12°C for 60 min and at 22°C for 60 min, mixed with 2 units of T4 DNA polymerase, and incubated at 37°C for 10 min to obtain a reaction mixture containing the second strand cDNA. To the reaction mixture was added 4  $\mu$ l of 0.25 M EDTA (pH 8.0) to suspend the reaction, and the resultant was in usual manner extracted with phenol and chloroform and treated with ethanol to precipitate the objective cDNA, followed by recovering the precipitate.

To the cDNA thus obtained were added 2  $\mu$ l of L/K buffer, 250 pmole Eco RI adaptor, and 2.5 units of T4 DNA ligase in this order, and the resultant solution was volumed up to 20  $\mu$ l with sterilized distilled-water, and incubated at 15°C for 16 hours to ligate the Eco RI adaptor to the both ends of the cDNA. The reaction mixture was mixed with 2  $\mu$ l of 0.25 M EDTA to inactivate the remaining enzyme, and subjected to molecular sieve chromatography to remove intact Eco RI adaptor. To the resultant were added 40  $\mu$ l of L/K buffer and 80 units of T4 polynucleotide kinase, and the mixture was volumed up to 400  $\mu$ l with sterilized distilled-water, followed by the incubation at 37°C for 30 min to methylate the Eco RI cleavage sites. The resultant mixture was extracted with phenol and chloroform and treated with ethanol to precipitate the objective DNA, followed by recovering the DNA. To the DNA were added 1.5  $\mu$ l of L/K buffer containing an adequate amount of  $\lambda$ gt 10 arms, and 2.5 units of T4 DNA ligase, and the resultant solution was volumed up to 15  $\mu$ l with sterilized



distilled-water, incubated at 15°C for 15 hours to effect ligation, and subjected to conventional *in vitro* packaging method to obtain a phage containing a recombinant  $\lambda$ DNA.

### Experiment 3-5

#### Cloning of recombinant DNA

A seed culture of *Escherichia coli* NM514 strain was in usual manner infected with the phage in Experiment 3-4, and the infected cells were inoculated in an agar plate (pH 7.0) containing 10 g/l bactotrypton, 5 g/l lacto-yeast extract, 10 g/l sodium chloride and 15 g/l bacto-agar, and incubated at 37°C for 6 hours to form plaques. The agar plate was covered with a nylon film and allowed to stand for about 30 seconds to attach the plaques thereunto. The nylon film was detached from the plate, and successively soaked in an aqueous solution containing 0.5 M sodium hydroxide and 1.5 M sodium chloride for 2 min and in 0.5 M Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.0) containing 1.5 M sodium chloride for 5 min. The nylon film was washed with 5xSSC, air-dried, soaked in a solution containing 5xSSPE, 5xDenhardt's solution, 0.5 w/v % SDS, and 100  $\mu$ g/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA, and incubated at 65°C for 3 hours. Thereafter, the resultant nylon film was incubated in a solution containing an adequate amount of DNA fragment as a probe 2 obtained in Experiment 3-2 and labeled with  $^{32}$ P by "READY PRIME DNA LABELLING SYSTEM", a DNA labeling kit commercialized by Amersham Corp., Div., Amersham International, Arlington Heights, USA, 5xSSPE, 5xDenhardt's solution, 0.5 w/v % SDS, and 100  $\mu$ g/ml of denatured salmon sperm DNA, and the mixture was incubated at 60°C for 20 hours to effect hybridization. The resultant was subjected to autoradiography similarly as above to select phage DNA clones which strongly hybridized with the probe 2.

With conventional techniques, the clones were amplified in *Escherichia coli*, followed by the extraction of a recombinant DNA from the cells. The recombinant DNA was cleaved with *Eco* RI, a restriction enzyme. Plasmid vector pUC19 (ATCC 37254) was cleaved with the same restriction enzyme, and the resultant cleaved DNA fragments and plasmid fragments were ligated with DNA ligase to obtain a recombinant DNA which was then introduced into *Escherichia coli* JM109 (ATCC 53323) by conventional competent cell method to obtain a transformant.

### Experiment 3-6

#### Determination of base sequence and amino acid sequence

The transformant in Experiment 3-5 was inoculated into L-broth (pH 7.2) and cultured at 37°C for 18 hours under shaking conditions. The resultant proliferated cells were collected and treated with conventional SDS-alkali method to obtain a recombinant DNA containing the DNA according to the present invention. The analysis on an automatic sequencer using a fluorophotometer revealed that the recombinant DNA contains the base sequence from the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:5. The decoding of the base sequence indicated that it encodes the amino acid sequence containing the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:5. The amino acid sequence contains the partial amino acid sequences in SEQ ID NOs:1 and 2 corresponding to those at positions from 79 to 103 and from 26 to 43 in SEQ ID NO:5, and this means that the present protein contains the amino acid sequence containing the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:3, and that it is encoded by a DNA containing the base sequence from the 5'-terminus in SEQ ID NO:4.

As is described above, the present inventors have found the present protein, which induces IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells, through their long term research. Unlike

conventional proteins, the present protein has specific physicochemical properties. The present invention is to provide the protein by applying the recombinant DNA technology. The present protein and its preparation will be described in detail with reference to the following Examples.

The protein according to the present invention means proteins in general which have specific physicochemical properties and those derived from natural sources, as well as those prepared by the recombinant DNA technology. The present protein generally has a partially or totally revealed amino acid sequence, for example, the amino acid sequence containing the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:3 and its homologous amino acid sequences. Variants, which have complementary amino acid sequences to the one in SEQ ID NO:3, can be obtained by replacing one or more amino acids in SEQ ID NO:3 with other amino acids without alternating the inherent biological properties of the present protein. Even when used the same DNA and depending on hosts into which the DNA is introduced, as well as on the components and the conditions of cultivation temperature and pH for culturing transformants containing the DNA, it may be formed variants which are defective in or additionally contain one or more amino acids near to the N-terminal in SEQ ID NO:3, but have the inherent biological properties of the protein through the modification by internal enzymes of the hosts after the DNA expression. The present protein includes such variants as long as they induce the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells.

The present protein can be prepared by culturing in nutrient culture media transformants with DNAs encoding the protein, and collecting the formed protein from the resultant cultures. The transformants usable in the present invention can

be obtained by introducing into appropriate hosts DNAs having the base sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, homologous base sequences to it, and complementary ones to these base sequences. One or more bases in those base sequences can be replaced with other bases by means of the degeneracy of genetic code without alternating the amino acid sequence of the present protein. To express the production of the protein in hosts by such DNAs, one or more bases in base sequences which encode the present protein or its variants can be replaced with other bases.

Any DNA can be used in the present invention as long as it has one of those base sequences independently of their origin, i.e. those from natural sources or those prepared by chemical synthesis. The natural sources include, for example, mouse liver cells from which the gene containing the present DNA is obtainable. The preparation procedure is as follows: Remove mouse liver previously challenged with stimulants such as *Corynebacterium parvum*, BCG (*Bacillus Calmette-Guérin*, mitogen and lipopolysaccharide, disrupt the liver cells, and isolate the whole DNAs from the resultant suspension. Treat the DNAs with oligo-dT cellulose or oligo-dT latex to obtain poly (A)'RNA, and fractionate it using a sucrose density gradient buffer to isolate mRNA. Allow a reverse transcriptase and a polymerase to act on the mRNA as a template to form double-stranded cDNA, introduce the cDNA into an appropriate self-replicable vector, and introduce the resultant recombinant DNA into an appropriate host such as *Escherichia coli*. Culture the resultant transformant in a nutrient culture medium, and collect the proliferated cells containing the DNA encoding the present protein by the colony hybridization method. The DNA according to the present invention is obtainable by treating the transformants with conventional

methods. To artificially produce the present DNA, for example, it is prepared by the chemical synthesis based on the base sequence in SEQ ID NO:4, or by introducing a DNA which encodes the amino acid sequence in SEQ ID NO:3 into an appropriate vector to form a recombinant DNA, introducing the recombinant DNA into an appropriate host, culturing the resultant transformant in a nutrient culture medium, isolating the proliferated cells from the culture, and collecting plasmids containing the objective DNA from the cells.

The DNA was generally introduced into hosts in the form of a recombinant DNA. Such a recombinant DNA usually contains the DNA and a self-replicable vector, and it can be readily prepared by the recombinant DNA technology in general if only the DNA is in hand. Examples of such self-replicable vector are plasmid vectors such as pKK223-2, pGEX-2T, pRL- $\lambda$ , pBTrp2 DNA, pUB110, YEp13, Ti plasmid, Ri plasmid and pBI121. Among these vectors, pKK223-2, pGEX-2T, pRL- $\lambda$ , pBTrp2 DNA, pUB110 and YEp13 are suitably used when the present DNA is expressed in procaryotes such as yeasts and other microorganisms of the species *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*, while Ti plasmid, Ri plasmid and pBI121 are suitably used for the expression in animal and plant cells.

To introduce the present DNA into these vectors, conventional methods used in this field can be arbitrarily used: Genes containing the present DNA and self-replicable vectors are cleaved with restriction enzymes and/or ultrasonic, and the resultant DNA fragments and vector fragments are ligated. To cleave genes and vectors, the use of restriction enzymes, which specifically act on nucleotides, more particularly, type II restriction enzymes such as *Sau* 3AI, *Eco* RI, *Hind* III, *Bam* HI, *Sal*

1, *Xba* 1, *Sac* 1 and *Pst* 1, facilitates the ligation of DNA fragments and vector fragments. To ligate DNA fragments and vector fragments, they are, if necessary, first annealed, then treated with a DNA ligase *in vivo* or *in vitro*. The recombinant

DNAs thus obtained can be readily introduced into appropriate hosts, and this enables the limitless replication of the DNAs by culturing the transformants.

The recombinant DNAs usable in the present invention can be introduced into appropriate hosts such as yeasts and other microorganisms of the species *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis*: When microorganisms of the species *Escherichia coli* are used as a host, they are cultured in the presence of recombinant DNAs and calcium ions, and the competent cell method and the protoplast method are used when microorganisms of the species *Bacillus subtilis* are used as a host. To clone the objective transformants, they are selected by the colony hybridization method or by culturing all the transformants in nutrient culture media, and selecting those which produce proteins capable of inducing immunocompetent cells to produce IFN- $\gamma$ .

The transformants thus obtained produce the present protein intracellularly or extracellularly when cultured in nutrient culture media. Examples of such nutrient culture media are those in the form of liquid in general which contain carbon sources, nitrogen sources and minerals, as well as amino acids and/or vitamins as a micronutrient. The carbon sources usable in the present invention include saccharides such as starch, starch hydrolysates, glucose, fructose and sucrose. The nitrogen sources usable in the present invention include nitrogen containing organic- and inorganic-compounds such as ammonia and their salts,

urea, nitrates, peptone, yeast extract, defatted soy bean, corn steep liquor, and beef extract. Transformants are inoculated into nutrient culture media and incubated at a temperature of 25-65°C and at a pH of 2-8 for about 1-10 days under aerobic conditions by the agitation-aeration method, etc., to obtain cultures containing the present protein. Although the cultures can be used intact as an IFN- $\gamma$  inducer, they are, if necessary, subjected to ultrasonication and/or cell lysis enzymes to disrupt cells, followed by filtering or centrifuging the resultant suspensions to remove intact cells and cell debris, and further purifying the resultant supernatants containing the present protein. The purification methods usable in the present invention are, for example, those which are generally used in this field to purify biologically active substances, i.e. concentration, salting out, dialysis, separatory sedimentation, gel filtration chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography, hydrophobic chromatography, affinity chromatography, chromatofocusing, gel electrophoresis, and isoelectric point electrophoresis, and, if necessary, two or more of them can be used in combination. The resultant purified solutions containing the present protein can be concentrated and/or lyophilized into liquids or solids to meet to final uses.

As is described above, the present protein has an activity of inducing IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells. Because of this, the present protein can be arbitrarily used as therapeutic and/or prophylactic agents, for example, those for virus diseases such as AIDS and condyloma acuminatum; malignant tumors such as renal cancer, granuloma, mycosis fungoides and cerebral tumor; and immune disorders such as articular rheumatism and allergy.

The present protein is allowed to coexist in nutrient

culture media to induce the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells, or directly administered to mammals for the treatment and/or prevention of IFN- $\gamma$  susceptible diseases. In the former, leukocytes separated from peripheral blood of mammals, or established immunocompetent cells such as HBL-38 cells, MO cells, Jurkat cells, EL-4 cells and L12-R4 cells are suspended in nutrient culture media containing the present protein to induce the IFN- $\gamma$  production. If necessary, such nutrient culture media can be supplemented with T-cell stimulants such as mitogen, interleukin 2, and anti-CD 3 antibody, and the cells are cultured at 30-40°C and at a pH of about 5-8 for about 1-100 hours while the media were replacing with fresh ones. IFN- $\gamma$  can be obtained from the resultant cultures by one or more conventional methods in general used for purifying biologically active substances, for example, concentration, salting out, dialysis, separatory sedimentation, gel filtration chromatography, ion-exchange chromatography, chromatofocusing, gel electrophoresis, and isoelectric point electrophoresis.

To treat and/or prevent IFN- $\gamma$  susceptible diseases, the present IFN- $\gamma$  inducing agent is directly administered to mammals: For example, IFN- $\gamma$  inducing agents are orally administered to mammals after formulated into appropriate forms, or injected to the mammals intradermally, subcutaneously, muscularly, intravenously and peritoneally. The mammals, which can be administered with the present protein, are not restricted to human, and include other animals such as mouse, rat, hamster, rabbit, dog, cat, cow, horse, goat, sheep, pig and monkey. Since the present protein has a strong IFN- $\gamma$  inducibility and an extremely-low toxicity, it readily induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production with only a small amount without causing serious side effects even



when administered to in a relatively-large amount. Thus, the present protein advantageously induces the desired amount of IFN- $\gamma$  production smoothly without strict control of the administration.

The present protein has a feature of strongly augmenting the cytotoxicity of killer cells, and, when used in combination with interleukin 2 and/or tumor necrosis factor (TNF), it exerts a strong effect on the therapeutic effect and/or the reduction of side effects in the treatment of adoptive immunotherapy for malignant tumors including solid carcinomas such as lung cancer, renal cancer and breast cancer.

The preparation of the present protein using the transformants will be explained in detail with reference to the following Examples:

#### Example 1

##### Replicable recombinant DNA and transformant

The first strand cDNA was prepared from the whole RNAs in Experiment 3-1 by using "GeneAmp RNA PCR Kit", a PCR kit commercialized by Takara Shuzo Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan. The procedures were as follows: To a 0.5-ml reaction tube were added 4  $\mu$ l of 25 mM magnesium chloride, 2  $\mu$ l of 10xPCR buffer, 8  $\mu$ l of one mM dNTP mix, one  $\mu$ l of one unit/ $\mu$ l RNase inhibitor, one  $\mu$ l of 2.5 units/ $\mu$ l of reverse transcriptase, one  $\mu$ l of 2.5  $\mu$ M random hexamer, and one  $\mu$ l of the whole RNAs in Experiment 3-1, and the mixture was volumed up to 20  $\mu$ l with sterilized distilled-water. The resultant mixture was successively incubated at 25°C for 10 min, at 42°C for 30 min, at 99°C for 5 min, and at 5°C for 5 min to obtain a reaction mixture containing the first strand cDNA.

Twenty  $\mu$ l of the reaction mixture was mixed with 4  $\mu$ l of 25 mM magnesium chloride, 8  $\mu$ l of 10xPCR buffer, 0.5  $\mu$ l of 2.5 units/ $\mu$ l of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase, and adequate amounts of sense

primer and anti-sense primer as shown by the base sequences of 5' CGAGGGATCGAACTTTGGCCGACTTC-3' and 5'-CGAGGAATTCCTAACTTTGATGTAAG-3' which were chemically synthesized based on the amino acid sequences near to the N- and C-terminals in SEQ ID NO:3, and the resultant mixture was volumed up to 100 µl with sterilized distilled-water. The mixture was in usual manner successively incubated at 94°C for one min, at 55°C for 2 min, and at 72°C for 3 min, and the successive incubation was repeated 40 cycles. The resultant PCR product was cleaved with Bam HI and Eco RI as a restriction enzyme to obtain a Bam HI-Eco RI DNA fragment.

To an adequate amount of sterilized distilled-water were added 100 ng of the fragment, 10 ng of "pGEX-2T", a plasmid vector commercialized by Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden, which had been cleaved with Bam HI and Eco RI as a restriction enzyme, an adequate amount of T4 DNA ligase, and 10 mM ATP in an amount of which gives the final concentration of one mM, followed by incubating the mixture solution at 16°C for 18 hours. The recombinant DNA thus obtained was introduced into *Escherichia coli* DH5 strain (ATCC 53868) to obtain a transformant which was then inoculated into L-broth (pH 7.2) containing 50 µg/l of ampicillin, followed by the incubation at 37°C for 18 hours and extracting the objective recombinant DNA by conventional SDS-alkali method.

The recombinant DNA was named "pMGTG-1" and analyzed for structure on the dideoxy chain termination method and revealing that, as is shown in FIG.2, in pMGTG-1, MGTG cDNA which has the base sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 is positioned in the downstream of the Tac promoter and the gene for glutathione S transferase.

#### Example 2

##### Preparation of protein by transformant

A transformant obtained by the method in Example 1 was

inoculated in L-broth (pH 7.2) containing 50 µg/ml of ampicillin, and cultured at 37°C for 18 hours under shaking conditions. One v/v % of the proliferated transformants as a seed was inoculated into 18 L of a fresh preparation of the same medium, and cultured at 37°C under aeration-agitation conditions until the absorbance ( $A_{650}$ ) of the culture reached to about 0.6, followed by adding IPTG to the culture to give a concentration of one mM. Thereafter, the resultant culture was incubated for 5 hours and centrifuged to separate cells which were then suspended in a mixture solution (pH 7.3) containing 150 mM sodium chloride, 16 mM disodium hydrogen phosphate, and 4 mM sodium dihydrogen phosphate, treated in usual manner with ultrasonication, and centrifuged to remove cell debris to obtain a supernatant.

The supernatant was fed to a column packed with "GLUTATHIONE SEPHAROSE 4B", a gel commercialized by Pharmacia LKB, Uppsala, Sweden, which had been equilibrated with 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) supplemented with 150 mM sodium chloride, and the column was washed with a fresh preparation of the same buffer and fed with 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0) supplemented with 5 mM reducing glutathione to elute proteins. Fractions containing proteins were pooled, mixed with calcium chloride to give a concentration of 2.5 mM together with 1,000 units of thrombin, and incubated at 25°C for 18 hours. The reaction mixture was fed to a column packed with "GLUTATHIONE SEEPHAROSE 4B", which had been equilibrated with 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) supplemented with 150 mM sodium chloride, followed by recovering non-adsorbed fractions. Thereafter, the fractions were pooled, concentrated, lyophilized to obtain a solid preparation containing the present protein with a specific activity of about  $5 \times 10^5$  units/mg protein in a yield of about 3 mg per one L of the culture.

Similarly as in Experiment 2, the purified protein was studied on the physicochemical properties and revealing that it has a molecular weight of  $19,000 \pm 5,000$  daltons on gel filtration and SDS-PAGE, and a pI of  $4.8 \pm 1.0$  on chromatofocusing. The testing by the method in Experiment 2-4 revealed that the purified protein effectively induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells independently of the presence of concanavalin A (Con A), and strongly augments the cytotoxicity of killer cells. This is an evidence that the present protein can be prepared by the recombinant DNA technology.

[Effect of the Invention]

The present invention is based on the finding of a novel protein which induces the IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells. The present protein is generally a substance with a partially or totally revealed amino acid sequence which has a stable activity of inducing IFN- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells. Therefore, the present protein is widely used as an IFN- $\gamma$  inducer for the IFN- $\gamma$  production by the cell culture method and as a therapeutic and/or prophylactic agent in general for IFN- $\gamma$  susceptible diseases such as viral diseases, malignant tumors and immunopathies.

The present protein has a strong IFN- $\gamma$  inducibility so that it can induce the desired amount of IFN- $\gamma$  production with only a relatively small amount. The protein dose not cause serious side effects even when administered to in a relatively large amount because of its extremely low toxicity. Therefore, the present protein has an advantage that it promptly induces the desired amount of IFN- $\gamma$  production without strictly controlling the dose. The present protein has an outstanding activity of increasing the cytotoxicity of killer cells and inducing a strong

activity on the therapeutic effect and/or the reduction of side effects in the treatment of adoptive immunotherapy for malignant tumors including solid carcinomas such as lung cancer, renal cancer and breast cancer.

The present protein with these useful properties can be obtained in a desired amount by using the present DNA encoding the protein.

The present invention is a significant invention that exerts such a remarkable effect and gives a great contribution to this field.

#### SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 25 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal fragment

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

Ile	Ile	Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Asp	Pro	Pro	Glu	Asn	Ile	Asp	Asp	Ile
1				5					10					15	
Gln	Ser	Asp	Leu	Ile	Phe	Phe	Gln	Lys							
			20					25							

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 18 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(v) FRAGMENT TYPE: internal fragment

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Gln	Pro	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Met	Thr	Asp	Ile	Asp	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu
1				5					10					15	
Pro	Gln														

(3) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A)LENGTH:137 amino acids  
 (B)TYPE:amino acid  
 (D)TOPOLOGY:linear  
 (ii)MOLECULE TYPE:peptide  
 (xi)SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION:SEQ ID NO:3:

Asn	Phe	Gly	Arg	Leu	His	Cys	Thr	Thr	Ala	Val	Ile	Arg	Asn	Ile	Asn
1				5					10					15	
Asp	Gln	Val	Leu	Phe	Val	Asp	Lys	Arg	Gln	Pro	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Met
			20					25					30		
Thr	Asp	Ile	Asp	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu	Pro	Gln	Thr	Arg	Leu	Ile	Ile
		35					40					45			
Tyr	Met	Tyr	Lys	Asp	Ser	Glu	Val	Arg	Gly	Leu	Ala	Val	Thr	Leu	Ser
	50					55					60				
Val	Lys	Asp	Ser	Lys	Xaa	Ser	Thr	Leu	Ser	Cys	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ile	Ile
65				70						75				80	
Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Asp	Pro	Pro	Glu	Asn	Ile	Asp	Asp	Ile	Gln	Ser
				85					90					95	
Asp	Leu	Ile	Phe	Phe	Gln	Lys	Arg	Val	Pro	Gly	His	Asn	Lys	Met	Glu
			100					105					110		
Phe	Glu	Ser	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Gly	His	Phe	Leu	Ala	Cys	Gln	Lys	Glu
		115					120					125			
Asp	Asp	Ala	Phe	Lys	Leu	Ile	Leu	Lys	Lys	Lys	Asp	Glu	Asn	Gly	Asp
	130					135					140				
Lys	Ser	Val	Met	Phe	Thr	Leu	Thr	Asn	Leu	His	Gln	Ser			
145					150					155					

(4)INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i)SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A)LENGTH:471 base pairs

(B)TYPE:nucleic acid

(xi)SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION:SEQ ID NO:4:

AAC	TTT	GGC	CGA	CTT	CAC	TGT	ACA	ACC	GCA	GTA	ATA	CGG	AAT	ATA	AAT	60
TTC	GTT	GACA	AA	GAC	AGCC	TGT	GTT	CGAG	GAT	ATG	ACTG	AT	ATT	GATCA	AAGTGCCAGT	120
GA	ACCC	CAGA	CC	AGACT	GAT	AAT	ATAC	ATG	TACAA	AGACA	GTGA	AGTAAG	AGG	ACTGGCT		180
GT	GACC	CTCT	CT	GTGA	AGGA	TAG	TAAA	AYG	TCT	ACCCTCT	CCT	GTAAGAA	CA	AGATCATT		240
TC	CTTT	GACG	AA	ATGG	ATCC	AC	CTG	AAAAT	ATT	GATGATA	TACAA	AGTGA	TCT	CATATTC		300
TT	T	CAGAAAC	GT	GTTC	CAGG	AC	ACA	ACAAG	AT	GGAGTTG	AAT	CTTCACT	GT	ATGAAGGA		360
CA	CTTT	CTTG	CT	TCCAAA	GGA	AGATGAT	GCT	TTCAAAC	TC	ATTCTGAA	AAAA	AAGGAT				420
GAAA	ATGGGG	ATA	AATCTGT	AAT	GTTCACT	CT	CACTAACT	TAC	ATCAAAG	T						471

(5)INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

(i)SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A)LENGTH:471 base pairs

(B)TYPE:nucleic acid

(C)strandedness:double

(D)TOPOLOGY:linear

(ii)MOLECULE TYPE:cdna to mRNA

(vi)ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(A)ANIMAL:mouse

(ix)FEATURE:

(A)NAME/KEY:1-471 mat peptide

(xi)SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION:SEQ ID NO:5:

AAC	TTT	GGC	CGA	CTT	CAC	TGT	ACA	ACC	GCA	GTA	ATA	CGG	AAT	ATA	AAT	48
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Asn	Phe	Gly	Arg	Leu	His	Cys	Thr	Thr	Ala	Val	Ile	Arg	Asn	Ile	Asn		
1				5					10					15			
GAC	CAA	GTT	CTC	TTC	GTT	GAC	AAA	AGA	CAG	CCT	GTG	TTC	GAG	GAT	ATG		96
Asp	Gln	Val	Leu	Phe	Val	Asp	Lys	Arg	Gln	Pro	Val	Phe	Glu	Asp	Met		
			20					25					30				
ACT	GAT	ATT	GAT	CAA	AGT	GCC	AGT	GAA	CCC	CAG	ACC	AGA	CTG	ATA	ATA		144
Thr	Asp	Ile	Asp	Gln	Ser	Ala	Ser	Glu	Pro	Gln	Thr	Arg	Leu	Ile	Ile		
		35					40					45					
TAC	ATG	TAC	AAA	GAC	AGT	GAA	GTA	AGA	GGA	CTG	GCT	GTG	ACC	CTC	TCT		192
Tyr	Met	Tyr	Lys	Asp	Ser	Glu	Val	Arg	Gly	Leu	Ala	Val	Thr	Leu	Ser		
	50					55				60							
GTG	AAG	GAT	AGT	AAA	AYG	TCT	ACC	CTC	TCC	TGT	AAG	AAC	AAG	ATC	ATT		240
Val	Lys	Asp	Ser	Lys	Xaa	Ser	Thr	Leu	Ser	Cys	Lys	Asn	Lys	Ile	Ile		
	65			70					75				80				
TCC	TTT	GAG	GAA	ATG	GAT	CCA	CCT	GAA	AAT	ATT	GAT	GAT	ATA	CAA	AGT		288
Ser	Phe	Glu	Glu	Met	Asp	Pro	Pro	Glu	Asn	Ile	Asp	Asp	Ile	Gln	Ser		
				85				90					95				
GAT	CTC	ATA	TTC	TTT	CAG	AAA	CGT	GTT	CCA	GGA	CAC	AAC	AAG	ATG	GAG		336
Asp	Leu	Ile	Phe	Phe	Gln	Lys	Arg	Val	Pro	Gly	His	Asn	Lys	Met	Glu		
			100					105					110				
TTT	GAA	TCT	TCA	CTG	TAT	GAA	GGA	CAC	TTT	CTT	GCT	TGC	CAA	AAG	GAA		384
Phe	Glu	Ser	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Glu	Gly	His	Phe	Leu	Ala	Cys	Gln	Lys	Glu		
		115				120						125					
GAT	GAT	GCT	TTC	AAA	CTC	ATT	CTG	AAA	AAA	AAG	GAT	GAA	AAT	GGG	GAT		432
Asp	Asp	Ala	Phe	Lys	Leu	Ile	Leu	Lys	Lys	Lys	Asp	Glu	Asn	Gly	Asp		
	130					135					140						
AAA	TCT	GTA	ATG	TTC	ACT	CTC	ACT	AAC	TTA	CAT	CAA	AGT					471
Lys	Ser	Val	Met	Phe	Thr	Leu	Thr	Asn	Leu	His	Gln	Ser					
145					150					155							

[Brief Description of the Accompanying Drawings]

FIG. 1 is an elution pattern on HPLC of peptide fragments obtained by the trypsinization of the present protein.

FIG. 2 is a structure of pMGTG-1, i.e. a recombinant DNA according to the present invention.

[Explanation of the symbols]

MGTG-1 cDNA : cDNA which encodes the present protein

Ptac : tac promoter

GST : glutathione S transferase gene

AmpR : ampicillin resistant gene

ori : replication initiation site of *Escherichia coli*

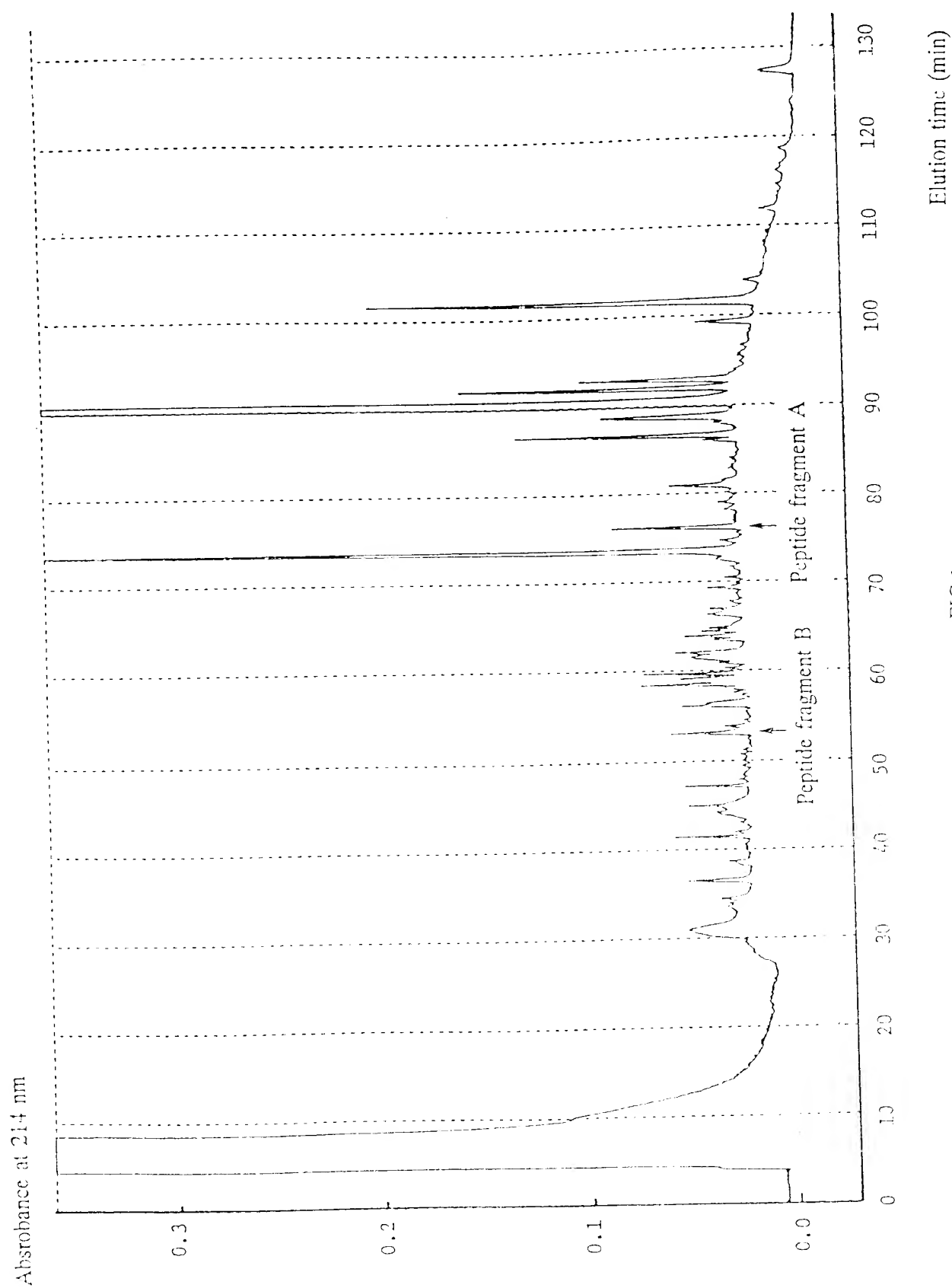


FIG.1



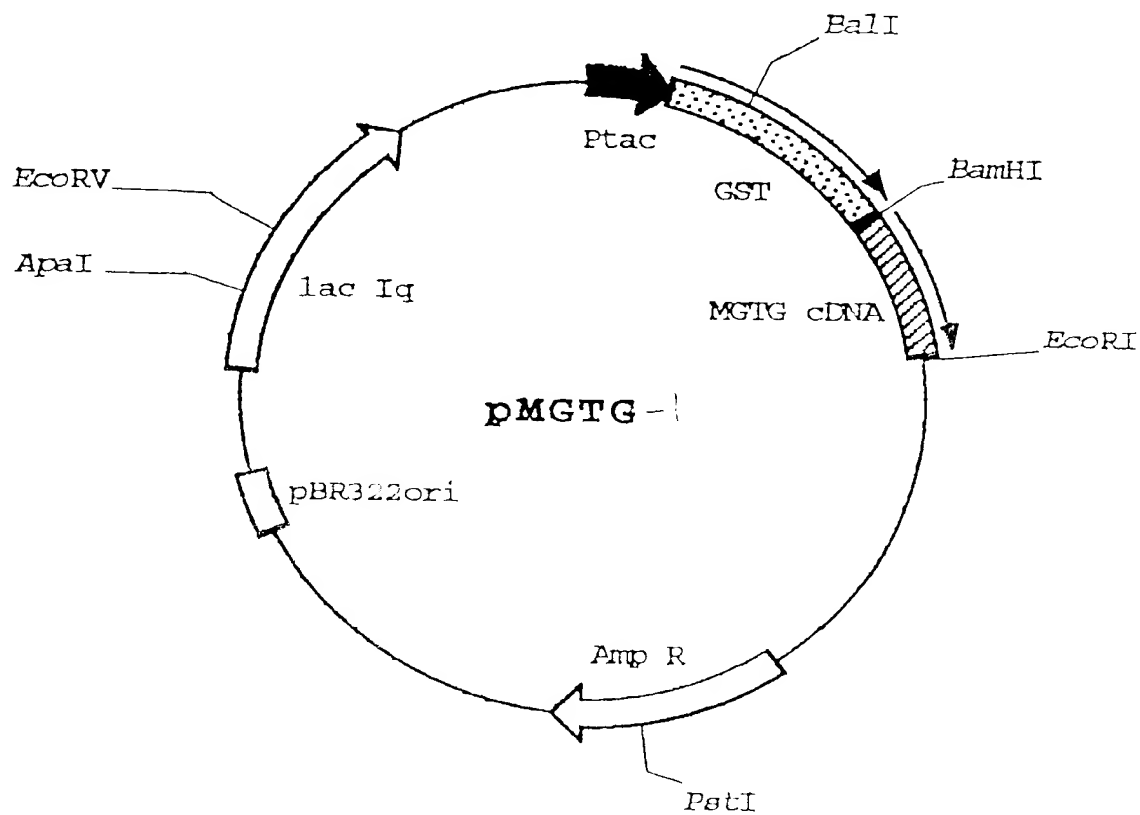


FIG.2